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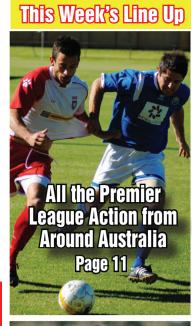




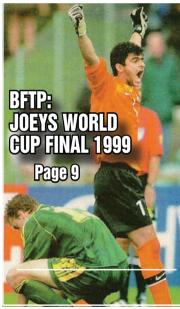
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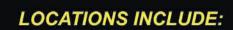












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Australia Cup in 2012?

By Gordon Bennett

THE iconic Australia Cup may yet be revived as a show-piece football tournament open solely to Australia's Premier League clubs with a prize money pool of nearly \$150,000 up for grabs.

That's the vision of Goal! Weekly founding editor Costa Koutropoulos, who confirmed this week that registration of the name 'Australia Cup' has been approved by the Office of Consumer Affairs and that the copyright and trademark ownership of the title was now in the hands of Alimental Enterprises Pty Ltd (publishers of Goal! Weekly).

Since the halcyon days of the football tournament back in the 1960s, the name Australia Cup was actually registered as a yachting race up until it ceased to exist some time in the early 1990s. It remained dormant until Alimental Enterprises made enquiries to the Office of Consumer Affairs almost a year ago and discovered that the name was available to register and thus wasted no time in legally acquiring it.

The proceedings began well before talk of an FFA Cup had begun to surface in the main-stream media and the main motivation of the idea according to Koutropoulos was to create an end-of-season tournament that could be contested by the champions of the respective State Premier Leagues in a bid to declare an undisputed Australian Premier League Champion.

Qualification for the Australia Cup would be run along



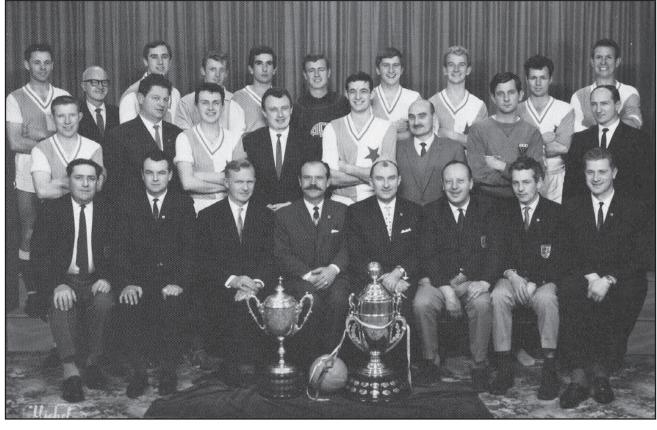
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As featured in Roy Hay's ever popular *Blast From The Past* in last week's edition of *Goal! Weekly,* Slavia with the Dockerty Cup and original Australia Cup in 1963.

Source: 30 Years of Slavia, Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.

the same lines as the European Champions League, with the champions of each State earning the right to compete in a draw for end-of-season homeand-away ties, culminating in a two-legged final.

With the pathway of promotion and relegation blocked to the A-league, a revived Australia Cup would provide an extra incentive for Premier League clubs to strive towards. It would also create a common goal for the clubs as well as gel their respective competitions together.

The concept has already been aired confidentially to a number of prominent Victorian Premier League clubs and the initial response has been extremely favourable.

The Australia Cup proposal also includes negotiating a TV deal which would enable the games to be broadcast in a half-hour highlights format show and preliminary talks have already taken place with a number of interested media organisations. Koutropoulos admitted that there was a long way to go before making it a reality, but believed that the Australia Cup had merit and could potentially be a reality by the end of the

2012 season.

Asked whether or not it would be going against the grain of the FFA Cup, Koutropoulos pointed out that the FFA Cup concept is a knock-out style cup, whereas the Australia Cup was more or less a champion of champions' trophy.

Koutropoulos also pointed out that logistically the Australia Cup might actually be easier to implement than the FFA Cup because "Australia is such a vast place geographically, and the Australia Cup wouldn't have to accommodate the huge numbers of teams in the draw like the FFA Cup would, even though technically speaking every Premier League club would still be eligible to contest and win it, so long as they qualified."

Koutropoulos went on to add, "The Australia Cup should not be seen as a threat or something of a competitor to the FFA Cup, on the contrary, it would actually complement it. Both cups would no doubt be unique for their own reasons."

Asked how the notion of the concept came about, Koutro-poulos replied, "Ultimately, the underlying motivation of reviv-

ing the Australia Cup is to provide clubs who don't have the chance to play in the A-League or the Asian Champions League with the opportunity to compete for a genuine and bona fide title that is steeped in tradition and already embedded in the history of our game. The Australia Cup could spice up the regular Premier League seasons across Australia and I'm quite sure that the clubs would love the opportunity of having a crack at taking home an undisputed title, not to mention some decent prize money."

He went on to say, "There's no doubt in my mind that if we had some top drawer games at the end of the season with something juicy and prestigious to play for then we might even realistically see some attendances in the vicinity of 3000 or 4000. When you compare that to what Premier League clubs get at the moment on a good day that surely can't be such a bad thing."

Koutropoulos stressed that "the concept of the Australia Cup shouldn't be seen as a threat to the A-League in any way shape or form. Far from it. The A-league has its own agenda and

as everyone knows in the whole scheme of things, the A-league has done wonders in catapulting the national competition light years forward compared to where it used to be.

"But the Premier League clubs

"But, the Premier League clubs will always exist and they are an important part of the whole pathway structure and football family. In my opinion, what's wrong with creating a tournament that they can identify with?"

"We've done the number crunching and it is actually quite feasible. We just need the Australian football community to embrace the concept with an open mind and think of the positives the Australia Cup could potentially bring to the table. It could really help to lift the profile and purpose of everyone's respective season. For starters, we've already got a dedicated football publication that would be honoured to cover the games and provide the coverage on a national level."

"Who knows, if this ever gets off the ground then 10 years from now we may even be talking about a Super Cup between the winners of the A-League and the Australia Cup."

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Round of 16 (16 matches) (1v2, 3v4, 5v6, 7v8, 9v10, 11v12, 13v14, 15v16) (home and away)
Quarter Finals (8 matches) (1v2, 3v4, 5v6, 7v8) (home and away)
Semi Finals (4 matches) (1v2, 3v4) (home and away)
Final (2 matches) (1v2) (home and

THE VENUES

away)

All matches will be played at the home ground of each team that qualifies for the Australia Cup.

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Greens dump O'Dell; Johnny A returns to the VPL mixer

By Gordon Bennett

Andy O'Dell has been sensationally dumped as coach of Victorian Premier League club Bentleigh Greens and replaced by John Anastasiadis.

The news was broken to O'Dell last Monday following Bentleigh's 3-2 loss to Richmond Eagles in their Round 7 match last weekend at Kevin Bartlett

It appears that the Greens weren't too happy with the direction the team was going so far this season and decided to make changes after contacting Anastasiadis and enquiring of his availability.

Anastasiadis had been taking a forced sabitical from the game after parting ways with Oakleigh Cannons last year, but decided to accept the job at Bentleigh after feeling he'd had a chance to recharge his batteries and get his zest back for the game.

The two time NSL championship winner who also coached South Melbourne to the VPL title in 2007 officially took over the reins at Kingston Heath last Monday morning, and was introduced to the players and conducted his first training session with



John Anastasiadis winning the VPL with South Melbourne in 2007.

assistant coach John Gabrielson later that evening.

Speaking exclusively to Goal! Weekly Anastasiadis shed some light on his appointment, "Bentliegh expressed to me that they were looking for a change in coaching personnel, and initially I wasn't looking to get involved in coaching this year, but sometimes the plans you make don't always work out the way you intended them to, so after further discussions with the club I decided to take them up on the opportunity."

The change had an immediate impact as Bentleigh Greens ran out 4-1 winners over the visiting Hume City in Anastasiadis' first

game in charge on Friday night. "We're not really going to take too much out of that match in particular. Obviously it was good to get off to a winning start and get the points, but Hume were pretty disadvantaged after losing their keeper early on in the match and had to play the majority of the game with 9 men. "

Asked what his immediate objectives are with the team, Johnny A hopes to implement his own style of play on his new team over the next few weeks and will take a closer look of his squad before contemplating delving into the transfer market when it opens again in May.

"We know that things won't hap-



Andy O'Dell

pen overnight, but we will look to improve and get some positive results along the way. No doubt everyone wants to be high achievers in the VPL and we're not kidding ourselves there, but first and foremost we want to play some good football and I just want to concentrate on delivering quality performances from my team."

GW also contacted Bentleigh Greens president Con Bios and asked why the club saw fit to terminate Andy O'Dell's services considering the club was still sitting in the top six when the decision was made. He replied, "We just weren't satisfied with the way the team had been playing in recent weeks and how we dropped some crucial points when they were basically there for the taking. The committee held some discussions and we felt that the best way for us to move forward at this moment of time in the season was to changes coaches. These decisions are never to easy to make nor did we take it lightly. However, these things happen in football and we must now accept our situation. Having said that, I would like to thank Andy O'Dell for all his efforts and would like to wish him all the very best for the future.

GW attempted to contact Andy O'Dell but was unsuccessful.

Meanwhile, the St Albans Saints are expected to appoint a new coach before the week is out. Kruni Razov was giving his marching orders after four years at the helm, and replaced with Richmond Eagles assistant coach Huss Skenderovic, only for the deal to fall through hours later.

According to sources close to the club, the Saints are keeping their cards close to their chest but an announcement will be made before this Saturday's next round of VPL matches.

Former under 21's coach Joe Kovacevic has been the caretaker in the meantime.

SHORT PASSES

Football ACE

FFV are pleased to announce that all affiliated clubs are now compliant with Level 1 of the Football Achieving Club Excellence (ACE) program. After being introduced in 2009, it's fantastic to now have over 320 accredited, with some great support and feedback from clubs, councils and partnering organisations regarding the program.

2011 Eureka Cup Junior Football Tournament

Ballarat Red Devils will be holding the 1st annual Eureka Cup Junior Football Tournament in the middle of the week 15-17 April during school holidays. For further information please call tournament manager Paul Byrne on 0415 077 058 or send an email to info@ballaratreddevils.com.au

Melbourne Heart Grassroots Tour

Melbourne Heart FC will face the Ballarat Red Devils on Wednesday 13 April (KO 7.30pm) at Eureka Stadium, Ballarat in the first of five friendly matches set to take place around Victoria. Heart will also play Green Gully (Wed 20th April), Olyroos (Friday 29th April), Geelong XI (Wed 4th may) and Port Melbourne (Wed 11th May).

FFV School Holiday Football -Places still available for week 2 programs

Places are still available for the week 2 Holiday programs located in Seaford, Cheltenham, Bendigo and Traralgon. Registration closes on Friday 15th April so get in quickly to ensure you don't miss out. For further information, please email carena@footballfedvic.com.au

Mirabella Cup Facebook Page

FFV has now launched at Mirabella Cup Facebook page where fans can follow the tournament as each round progresses.

Falcons Soccer Club 50th Anniversary

The Gippsland-based Falcons Soccer Club is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a function and a book launch.

The event will consist of a three course meal and a book launch on the clubs history.

For further details please contact Nick Torrieri on 0422 828 619 or Tony Salvatore on 0413 999 533.

3rd Round Details

Third Round Mirabella Cup Results: Forest Rangers (R) 1-9 Geelong (S2) Old Scotch (S3) 1-1 (2-4 Penalties) Box Hill United (S2)

North Sunshine Eagles (P1) 1-0 Williamstown (S3) South Springvale (S2) 3-1 Peninsula Strikers

Moreland Wolves (P3) 1-4 Hume United (S3)

Third Round Mirabella Cup Remaining Fixtures:

Mon 11 Apr 7:00pm Moreland City (S2) v Melbourne Tornado (P1) – DISC Pitch 2 Tue 12 Apr 7:30pm Doncaster Rovers (S2) v Ashburton (P2) – Anderson Park Wed 13 Apr 7:00pm Heideliberg Starts (P3) v La Trobe Uni (S3) - DISC Pitch 3 Wed 13 Apr 7:30pm Mornington (S3) v Dandenong City (S2) – Monterey Reserve Thu 14 Apr 7:30pm Epping City (P2) v Banyule City (S2) – DISC Pitch 1 Tue 19 Apr 7:00pm Corio (P1) v Ballarat Red Devils (S2) – Morshead Park Thu 21 Apr 7:30pm South Yarra (P1) v Middle Park FC (P3) – DISC Pitch 1

Thu 21 Apr 7:30pm South Yarra (P1) v Middle Park FC (P3) – DISC Pitch 1 Yarraville Glory (S3) v Old Melburnians (P1) – To be confirmed

Keilor Park (S3) v Westgate (S2) – To be confirmed

Eastern: Mooroolbark (P1) & Waverly Wanderers (S3)

have qualified for the next stage.

Bayside Argonauts (P2) & Kingston City (S3) have qualified for the next stage.

Tatura (R) & Twin City (R) have qualified for the next stage.

Mirabella Cup 3rd Round Update

By Robert Di Fabio

The third round of the revolutionary Mirabella Cup knockout competition commenced last week with five of the fourteen fixtures completed.

Due to the commencement of the State, Provisional and Metropolitan leagues on the initial weekend of April, all remaining Mirabella Cup ties throughout the year will take place as midweek fixtures.

The remaining nine cup ties will be played throughout the next two weeks. The winners will then proceed to the Second Stage of the Mirabella Cup where the seeded VPL and State League One outfits will be drawn into the competition.

Tuesday night played host to the clash between Forest Rangers (Regional) and Geelong (State 2). The fixture represented an immense division in class between the two Wimmera South Coast outfits. Geelong easily accounted for the Rangers 9-1 in what was a brutal display of football.

Moving across to the North-Eastern Region the newly merged Box Hill United (State 2) travelled to Old Scotch (State 2). In an all State League affair, the build up to the match didn't disappoint. With the scores at 1-1 following the initial 90 minutes, the game went into extra time. As a result, no team could prevail and a penalty shoot-out was attended. After 120 minutes of reverting football, Box Hill United triumphed through to the next stage of the competition by claiming a 4-2 victory in the shoot-out. Old Scotch will be leave the competition feeling aggrieved; however they should be proud of their efforts on the night.

In the Western Zone North Sunshine Eagles (Prov 1) took on their higher league opposition in Williamstown (State 3). While only one division separates the two outfits an upset was realised with the Eagles claiming the bragging rights with a hard fought 1-0 victory. A remarkable achieve-

ment for the team who ply's their trade in the Provisional Leagues of Victorian football.

In the Southern Zone South Springvale (State 2) welcomed Peninsula Strikers (State 3) to the Grange Reserve. The game produced moments of class and high tempo football amongst the state league counter-parts. However, South Springvale illustrated its superiority by claiming a well deserved 3-1 triumph.

The final mid-week cup fixture saw Moreland Wolves (Prov 3) take on the highly rated Hume United (State 3), who started off proceedings as hot favourites. In a battle which was reminiscent of the David and Goliath encounter, the unsung hero was not meant to be on this occasion. Hume United exhibited why they are plying their trade as a state league outfit by convincingly overcoming the Wolves 4-1.

Cup football represents clubs with the opportunity of testing their strength of character, football prowess and willingness to succeed against opposition which are unfamiliar in the usual league format. Playing against teams from unfamiliar surroundings in a do or die battle is what makes the essence of cup football a romance in itself. Throughout the initial weeks of the competition we have witnessed many nail biting games, tension, upsets and dreams come into fruition as clubs dare to dream of competing against the power-house outfits in Victorian football. For some clubs, this illusion has come to life with procession into the next stage of the competition. For the remaining eighteen clubs, one more triumph and the reverie will

grow to be authentic.



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Successful Youth System key for future

By Robert Di Fabio

ollowing the demise of the now defunct **National Soccer** League in 2004, football in Australia has experienced some unprecedented highs with two consecutive World Cup qualifications and an injection of fresh air with the establishment of a rejuvenated national competition, the A-League.

The inception of the revamped league brought much optimism and expectation following an influx in crowd numbers and an improvement in mainstream media space in its early years. However, in recent times the A-League has suffered off the pitch. Negative media publicity regarding the games direction, the demise of North Queensland Fury and an unstable financial environment amongst club owners is leaving many clubs and supporters feeling cynical about viability of the A-League throughout the long-term.

Gold Coast United Chief Executive, Clive Mensink was left to defend his own club's stance on the feasibility of the A-League. Since the closure of the 2010/11 A-League season the club has seen a flurry of players leave the Sunshine Coast- Jason Culina (Newcastle Jets), Bruce Djite (Adelaide United), Shane Smeltz (rumoured to Perth Glory), Dino Dublic (Shaanxi Renhe Commercial Chanba in China), Anderson (released), Bas van den Brink (Busan 1'Park in Korea) and Steve Pantelidis (Bintang Medan in A profusion of important play-

ers departing, while only offering one-year contracts to existing players led to speculation that the club wouldn't have a foreseeable future beyond the next couple of seasons. However, Mensink had a differing view on the scenario and professed that the emergence of youth was a key contingent to

the prosperity of the A-League and for Australian football to move towards a successful era. "Despite the rumours and innuendo, not everyone is on a

one-year contract at our club;

just because we have decided that we need to be prudent and be responsible financially, that does not mean we don't have faith in FFA or the A-League," he said. "There is little point in investing time and resources into creating a youth team that wins the competition two years running if we don't allow those players to make the next step into the senior ranks."

Mensink's attitude must be applauded. Since the inauguration of Gold Coast United in 2009, this is one of the rare occasions where the club is leading by example. Constructive feedback and practicality has finally come into fruition for the club situated in south-east Queensland. More A-League clubs should be inheriting this philosophy.

Obviously there needs to be some common sense and practicality used when applying youth towards the agenda. A mixture of youth and more seasoned players is a formula that has many benefits. An over exaggeration of youth will leave players without the leadership skills and experience that is necessary when on the pitch. Younger players will learn their traits through training, to team meetings to game-time through their experienced counter-parts. The philosophy envisaged by Gold Coast United is definitely ambitious; however the club is to be commended for having such a positive outlook on how our youth should be treated. As mentioned, the Gold Coast youth team has won the National Youth League consecutively for two seasons, it only points to a bit of common sense that some of these players should be plying their trade in the senior landscape of Australian football.

The Australian youth system has seen an immense amount of change over the past few years. Since the introduction of the A-League in 2005, the FFA introduced the National Youth League in 2008.

•Each A-League outfit would contain a youth roster comprising of a system where all youth players would need to be between the ages of 16-21 (must be in that age bracket



Alan Hansen once famously said that "You'll never win anything with kids". Gold Coast United's 'Bleiberg's Babes' will hope to prove the Liverpool legend's prophecy is somewhat misguided for a second time in history next season. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

as of January 1 in the year the Youth League commences).

•Four over-age players are also allowed to participate in the Youth League fixtures.

•Each youth player in the match-day squad would be required to receive a minimum of 30 minutes game time.

The latter rule was received with mixed emotions from the football fraternity. It's great that youth players were able to receive guaranteed game-time to help nurture and develop their talents. Although, having to guarantee 30 minutes isn't a natural solution and can effectively alter the outcomes of tactics and results.

The youth system in the A-League is barely passable; conversely if we sight back to the NSL days the manner in which the clubs nurtured their youth protégées was seen as a much more productive system. In the NSL, clubs could develop and trace the progression of their players all the way through their junior ranks. It was an effective system which allowed the national league clubs to develop their own future football stars and have an

effective track record on how their juniors had progressed over the years.

A prime example is former Socceroo and AC Milan goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac. As a junior he played with Sydney United. He was raised through the ranks as a junior and developed his skills under the helm of the former NSL club. At the early age of 16 he was rewarded and made his senior debut in the 1989-90 NSL season. Fairytales like this are not apparent in today's football environment. The current system doesn't allow for players to developed and nurtured by the National Australian clubs.

Nowadays, A-League clubs are mere pouches and consequently inherit the credit for the development and upbringing of young players. These youth are purchased for the minimal bargaining agreement from their respective state league outfits. Consequently, these state league outfits inherit none of the accolades for their hard work and dedication in the player they helped produce.

If there were a system where A-League clubs could produce, track and nurture their own perspective talent through the

junior ranks (U12's and beyond) then I'm sure we will see an improvement in the quality of youth being produced. It's time for A-League clubs to invest their time, money and resources into formatting a junior system where talented players are constantly under the microscope of A-League officials. Each A-League junior set-up could easily be installed with their local state federation and compete against the relevant junior teams.

Currently there are systems put in place by the FFV to have specific elite training squads like the VTC (Victorian Training Centre) who ply their trade in the Victorian Premier League and also in the U21's of the same division. These ideas are great for the development of the game within the state; the FFV should be praised for their innovative way of thinking. However, for a truly efficient youth system, A-League clubs must attempt to take more responsibility in developing youth all the way down to their childhood years. A junior set-up could comprise of an U12's, U14's, U16's and U18's system where the next stage would be the club's youth team (U21's which compete in

the NYL).

In contrast to the utmost successful youth academies around the world, it is highly evident that a similar system is put into place. Stars like Lionel Messi were a graduate from the renowned Barcelona youth system where he did his apprenticeship and graduated with flying colours. We obviously need to put things into perspective, we don't have anywhere near the amount of funding nor resources to compete with those benchmarks set amongst Europe. However, if a similar system is adopted then it will only reap benefits in the long-term future for the development and prosperity of the game. It's time for the A-League clubs to take more of an initiative and responsibility into how our kids are being taught their football apprenticeship. There's nothing wrong with scouting future talents from their local state league clubs and subsequently progressing their development, although an enhanced and more stringent youth set-up by the A-League clubs will have more positive outcomes for football within









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Australia.

Welsh Wizard's Aussie Journey

By Robert Di Fabio

This week Goal Weekly caught up with Dandenong Thunder ace Luke Sherbon. Following a successful period in Wales where he won a Welsh Championship and played in the UEFA Champions League, Sherbon took the ambitious assignment of travelling across the globe to ply his trade in Australia. With an ambitious mind-set, will to succeed and a temperament to make the most out of his abilities, Luke's career is beginning to flourish to new levels. However, his talents aren't restricted to the football pitch, triumphing in FIFA 11 against his team-mates Feston Azizi and Liam Kearney is also held in high regard. Luke Sherbon's profession has shown an abundance of aptitude, with an impressive set of traits his football career is set to be a successful voyage.

Q. How did you come about playing football in Australia?

I was playing in the U23's with Wales and my old team-mates Jamie Reid mentioned that he was coming to Australia to play football. I was interested. I spoke to Stuart Munro and he got me over to Dandenong.

Q. How would you compare the experience of playing football in Melbourne in contrast to the UK?

A. Overseas the weather is very different, especially when I come over this time of year I play in 30 degree heat which I've never done before. Back home it's always raining. Over here the football is a lot faster, but physically it's not as demanding as back home. The referee's are more lenient back home than they are over here.

Q. Have you had any major representative honours throughout your football career?

A. I played in the Champions League for Rhyl FC from Wales; we played in Belgrave in the qualifiers. I also played for Leeds United for four years as a youth

Q. Who have been the biggest influences on your career?

A. My parents, they used to take me to all the games when I was younger and supported me.

Q. Do you get homesick plying your trade on the other side of the globe?

A. It is quite hard, but since I was younger I had always been away from home due to football so I don't really get home sick. However I find that speaking to people back home e is a lot harder due to the time difference.

Q. Can you inform us on any information in relation to Coventry contacting you?

A. They contacted me a while back asking me if I was interested in a trial for a couple of weeks. But when I was over in Australia I didn't want to come back home for a trial. I didn't want to arrive there and find out I wasn't good enough and then maybe ruin my chances of playing in Australia.

endigo Bank

Luke Sherbon has been an integral part of Dandenong Thunder's impressive start to the season. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Unless I had an offer from a club I don't think I'll go home for any

Q. When did Coventry contact

A. They contacted me just before I came out here (mid-way through last year).

Q.How's everything been travelling down at Dandenong

A. It's good I enjoy it. At the moment I'm living with one of my team-mates Liam Kearnev and my girlfriend. It's not a bad area (Dandenong); it's close to the training which is walking distance. We train three times a

week so it's all good.

Q. What do you enjoy most about the club?

A. The fans, they are really passionate. They get behind the players during the game; we get between 3-3.5 thousand fans at every home game. If you play for Dandenong they're really friendly to you.

Q. At the youthful age of 24, what do you hope to achieve in the next few years?

A. To try and get back into fulltime football. In the VPL there are no clubs that are full-time. So I'm hoping to go full-time like one of my old team-mates last year Geoff Kellaway who went away with much. The pace is to Melbourne Victory.

Q. Having been part of the squad that claimed the Welsh FC qualified for the UEFA Championship with Rhyl FC in 2008-09, how would you compare the standard between the VPL and Welsh Premier

A. I see a lot of similarities in both the leagues. They're both part-time, but over in Wales there are about three or four clubs that are full-time. The quality is the same; the physical side is a lot more demanding in Wales. You get away with a lot more back home in regards to tackling, while over here you don't get

Champions League, how would you describe that experience?

A. It was unbelievable; playing in front of 30,000 people in Belgrade was one of the best feelings in my life. It was nerve breaking but exciting at the same time.

Q. Do you believe the A-League is in good stead? With your recent arrival in Australia, had you heard much about the A-League or Australian football whilst overseas?

A. Before my mate Geoff (Kel-

laway) was playing for Victory I followed the A-League a bit. Since I've been following it more the past season I've been impressed with what I've seen and the players involved in the league. You've got players like Robbie Fowler (Perth Glory) who is well known back home, there's also players like Michael Bridges (Newcastle Jets) who are quite good. Obviously you guys are getting good crowds in the A-League. So I think it's doing

Q. Did you hear about Dwight Yorke when he played for Sydney FC in 2005/06?

A. Yes I heard about Dwight Yorke back then. Him and Andy Cole were one of my favourite players when I was younger. I used to follow his (Yorke's) career but I didn't know much about the A-League back then. I've been following it more the past year. Now there's a lot more on TV back home on Sky Sports, they do a lot of coverage on the A-League, so it's getting quite big back in the UK.

Q. How do you believe we can improve the foresight of the game within Australia?

A. I think it's got a lot to do with

the sponsors and getting kids involved at a young age. At the moment I've been helping out at the Hallam High School as a football coach. The main sports seem to be AFL and Rugby. It would be nice to see more kids at Primary School take up football and develop them at a young age. Hopefully this will make the national side all the better in the next ten years.

Q. Growing up, which player did you aspire to replicate your game towards?

A. Being a midfielder, I used to look upto people like Paul Scholes. Even now I look at players like Scott Parker from West Ham and look at how they play.

Q. Off the pitch, what are some of the hobbies you enjoy do-

A. I enjoy chilling out, going to the movies. I also enjoy coaching football and swimming. I'm a very layed back type of guy.

Q. Do you aspire to coach after you finish your playing career? A. I'm hoping to be a coach as soon as I finish my playing career. When I finish (my playing career) I always want to be involved in football at any level or

Q. Finally, if you had to choose one player and coach in world dine with, who tootball to would it be?

A. I would have to say David Beckham because he's an idol to everyone back in the UK. As a coach I'd pick Jose Mourinho just to hear some stories and the way he is. He's a really nice and interesting guy.

On behalf of GW thank you for your time and we wish you the upmost success throughout your football career.

Terrace Talk





With Victory Physio Daniel Jones

It's been a big week for the Melbourne Victory Club. We just got back home after playing against Chinese club Tianjin Teda in the latest round of the Asian Champions League. We were unlucky not to come home with a win but 1-1 result keeps us alive which is positive for our club and the A-League.

Enough about my week, I hope you have all been well and those who are out on the pitch I hope your team is having successful season and continue to do so.

This week I thought it would be interesting to focus on soft tissue injuries. These injuries occur con-

stantly within my club and I know many other clubs face the same issue week in and week out.

The two most common soft tissue injuries I deal with are muscle strains and blunt trauma.

Muscle strains commonly occur in the biceps femoris (hamstring) muscle. This muscle arises on the pelvis and passes down the back of the thigh, inserting below the knee. It is a powerful hip extensor and knee flexor muscle. Strains consist of damage to the muscle fibers and/or tendon portions of the muscle, and occur during muscle

contraction while simultaneously being stretched. This situation commonly arises when a soccer player is in the motion of sprinting. Causes of muscle strains are complex, but are thought to be the result of overload and fatigue, either by some training error or muscle imbalance/coordination problem. Micro trauma within a muscle can accumulate over time when over-training, until the tissue fails leading to a sudden onset of sharp, localised pain and weakness.

Blunt trauma causing haematomas (or "corks" as commonly referred to as) to a muscle. These injuries commonly affect muscles of the thigh and calf. A haematoma is a collection of blood that develops within or around a muscle, causing pain and weakness. These types of soft tissue injuries occur during a game and a player may not be aware until after when they cool down. Blunt trauma occurs commonly in tackles or challenges, often when contact occurs with an opponents boot or knee.

Blunt-trauma injuries can be minimised by wearing protective equipment like shin pads. Padded shorts can also be worn to protect the thigh. Muscle injuries often feel better when compress firmly with a compression bandage or elastic tape. It is extremely important, however, that the player does not return to training/competition until they have been cleared by a Doctor or physiotherapist.

Healing times must be respected and full rehabilitation must be complete to avoid recurrences of strains and ongoing problems.

Thorough warm-ups and adequate rest after hard training sessions is extremely important to avoid soft-tissue injuries.

Most elite clubs in Australia now recognise the importance of leg strengthening programs in the prevention of soft-tissue injuries. It is widely regarded that super-strengthening muscles will make them or injury-resistant. The training week must therefore be carefully planned to factoring coaching and physical preparation to minimise the risk of injury.

Football is a safe sport to play, but injuries do occur. With a bit of luck and some good management hopefully you can avoid soft tissue injuries and you can spend more time where we all belong, on the

ETRITETY PT

Avoid soft tissue injuries by wearing protective gear and completing a thorough warm-up. Photo: ANITA MILAS

If you have any questions that you want answered, drop me a line in the comments box below and I will endeavor to answer in my next column.

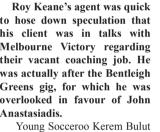
See you next week!

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BOO'S WORLD





was back in the news this week, appearing in court to have his passport returned so he can return to his Romanian club Mlada Boleslav. He had to hand in his passport late last year after being charged with criminal offences in relation to his association with an alleged criminal gang. Now you have to question the quality of the management and advice he is receiving after noting his dress sense for his court appearance. Opting not to go with a suit, he fronted the judge in jeans and a hoodie, with a handgun motif featuring on the hoodie. His fashion and common sense faux pas was overlooked, and it seems he may be given the opportunity to res-

"No goalscorers entered". You will be very familiar with this phrase if you like to look through the Saturday results of Victorian football on the FFV website. Under the new FFV policy of clubs entering their own scores onto the ResultsVault system it has become more common. A bonus of the new directive is that some



Roy Keane: Just missed out on getting the Bentleigh job

clubs, even in the lower Provisional Leagues, are entering their full match details with line-ups, substitutions and cards. The negative is that not everyone is able to get logged on and post their results and scorers in the immediate aftermath of a match. Surely phoning in the scores and scorers to the FFV to put them up by 5.30 pm and then having the clubs put up the line-ups and substitions during the week would be the best resolution?

And looking through the results that did come in, there were a few good old fashioned shellackings. Preston Lions mauled to the tune of 6-0 by a rampant Pascoe Vale. Moreland City smashing Geelong 7-2. Moreland United tried hard to match their local counterparts, beating Melbourne City 5-3. In the Metropolitan League North West,

Tullamarine Jets made a mess of Keon Park 12-1, with Mohammed Al Kazimi bagging half a dozen. Albert Park had a big win away, 7-4 at Manningham. A contendor for best named player in the FFV today has to be Tut Tut of Sandown Lions in Metropolitan League South East.

Will Fernando Torres score an EPL goal for Chelsea before Melbourne Victory win a game in this year's Asian Champions League? Or will neither happen? The pressure is mounting, probably less so on Victory because their Asian campaign has pretty much been written off already. It's a shame Ernie Merrick isn't around to draw out the positives after each result and claim they were still a chance to progress long after the possibility was barely mathematical.



THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas

Another week in Victorian football, where...

True to statistical form, once a coaching change occurs, that team will win their first game with a new Gaffer in charge, as was the case this week with Bentleigh Greens defeating Hume City 4-1.

Shame I had no hard earned on it, however I will make sure that I jump on after the next wicket is taken by the scorer.

Something tells me that I will shortly be plonking some pesetas on Green Gully as they suffered a very Sad End to the Blue Boys from Northcote. Gully Coach Lapsansky would be as safe there as a Bottle of J Walker in my bar.

Time will tell as the Scorer's Annual Leave request has been denied.

Attention Hoyts and Village Cinemas, are you looking for ushers to show patrons to their seats and to also ensure that they remain seated?

Look no further than the pre Game Suit Clad Men In Black, specifically Linesmen, or to be more politically correct Assistant referees, who for some reason this year have displayed a fascination in watching each team's bench to ensure that everyone bar the Gaffer are seated. What actually occurs on the ground, ie. offsides and the like, at times pale into insignificance.

I have witnessed this at many

games and the above observation is not a one off. It is now seriously getting to the point of the ridiculous

Injured players that have just come off have been told that they cannot lie in front of their bench to obtain treatment. As I said above, the enforcement of this rule is getting out of hand.

Over to the Melbourne Victory we go, where the search continues for Ernie's replacement.

Current caretaker coach Mehmet Durakovic is banking on some Victory Happy Ends in the Asian Cup, which will make his case stronger to get appointed.

Results to date suggest that he has about as much chance of getting the job as I have of a FFV Life Membership.

Another name that has been bandied around is Eddie Krncevic, however a wild card flew in during the week, ex-Manchester United great Roy Keane, who flew in to the Lucky Country last week.

Keane's management denies that he is interested in the Victory job, however where there is smoke there is usually a WN Field.

Alleged salary demands though are a cool million, and if he gets paid that to coach the Victory, it will give new meaning to one of my favourite terms, Great Country Australia!

Across the corridor we go to the Melbourne Heart, whose coach,

John van 't Schip is on a reported \$700,000 per year, said good bye to one of its shareholders Joe Mirabella, who sold his stake in the club.

Seems that Mirabella was not a fan of van't Schip, but rather a fan of Ange Postecoglou. However, his dream of having ex NSL teams buy into the Heart, in the hope that these fans actually began to support the Heart kind of went against the grain of the other Directors, and hence his departure.

Over to the UK we go where Man U Striker Wayne Rooney really could have done with some Nasal Spary Technology last week, as after scoring a hat-trick against West Ham, he bolted toward the cameras and let out some naughty

A two week suspension and perhaps losing his £600k sponsorship with J Walkers favourite partner, Coca Cola, Rooney can take solace that this video clip will be used in a educational video to be put together to show children how not to behave

He will be in good company in this video as his boss, Sir ALex will also be featured in it!

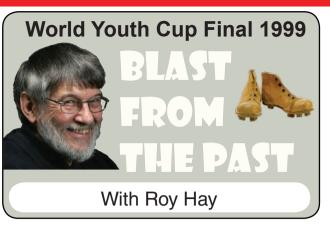
A Boo size article this week...

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The Joeys nearly down **Brazil in World Cup**

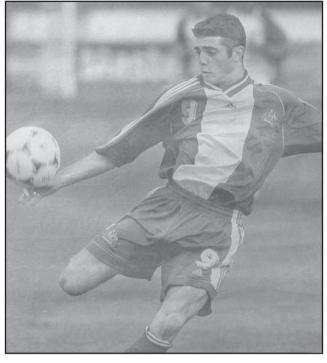
Until the Matildas won the Asian championships and the Socceroos reached the final against Japan, arguably the best performance by an Australian team in international competition was the FIFA World Youth Cup final in New Zealand in 1999, when the Joeys reached the final only to lose to Brazil on penalties.

Some might plump for the Socceroos final against Brazil in the Confederation Cup in 1997, but that resulted in a sixnil loss. The near thing in New Zealand was one of the greatest achievements in Australian soccer history, according to Rale Rasic, who should know. He points out that Les Scheinflug also twice took the Young Socceroos, the Under-19s, to World Cup semi-finals. Rasic said Scheinflug was 'one of the greatest youth coaches in the world.'[i] <#_edn1>

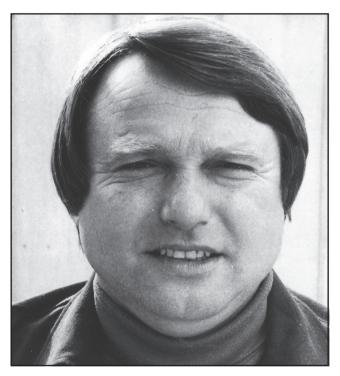
Since New Zealand was the host of the tournament and had an automatic place in the final, the Australians had to win the Oceania qualifying tournament and then play Bahrain to get to the last stage. The long haul began with a two-one win over the host nation in Fiji on 1 May 1999. Two days later Papua New Guinea was overwhelmed in an 8-0 rout and on 5 May the Cook Islands also succumbed by the same score. Next up American Samoa was on the receiving end of 15 goals and two days after that Vanuatu conceded nine without reply. The semi-final versus New Caledonia was equally one-sided after the islanders had a player sent off and so the Joeys faced Fiji in Lautoka in the final. Scott Mc Donald scored after 20 minutes and then Shane Cansdell-Sherriff, Joey di Iorio with two, including a late penalty and Dylan Macallister completed a fivenil win.

Bahrain was the next obstacle and it persuaded FIFA to reschedule the qualifying matches at the last minute. Nevertheless Australia got through after a two-all draw at home in Canberra and a meritorious away win by a goal to nil scored by Louis Brain. To harden them up, Scheinflug took his team on an arduous South American tour in October with games in Uruguay, Chile and Argentina. The final game was a threeall draw with the Argentinian Under-17s, which showed that the Joeys would be very competitive in New Zealand.

On 12 November, Australia



Joey di Iorio in striking action. Source: Herald-Sun, 22 November 1999, p. 38, via Peter Desira collection, to be deposited at Deakin University



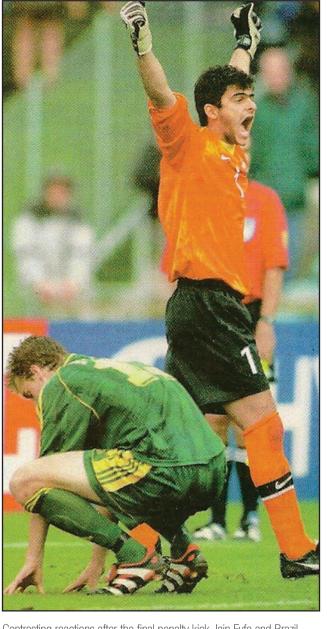
Master coach, Les Scheinflug. Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.

faced the mighty Brazil in Christchurch in its opening game in the final tournament. Marquinhos and Ricardo put latter stages of the match and scored through substitute Dylan McAllister. Joey di Iorio and Louis Brain combined to set up the goal, and Josh Kennedy was denied what looked like a penalty as Australia tried to get something out of the

The second match against Germany saw the Joeys lose an early goal when Leonhard Haas scored from a cross by Florian Heller. The Germans seemed content to hold that

one-nil lead but once again the Joeys raised their game in the second half. Wayne Schroj took a cross field pass from the Brazilians ahead but the Shane Cansdell-Sherriff and Joeys powered back in the fired it across goal. The ball struck Thomas Hitzelsperger in the chest and rebounded into the German goal. That was in the 65th minute and the Joeys took the lead only five minutes later. Lucas Pantelis's free kick came back off a defender to skipper Mark Byrnes who finished neatly. Despite some frantic German pressure, the Joeys held on for the win and could have added to their

The final group match was against Mali and it was settled



Contrasting reactions after the final penalty kick. Iain Fyfe and Brazil keeper Rubinho. World Soccer, January 2000, p. 28



Scott McDonald and Steve Martin in action in the National Youth League. Photo: Roy Hay.

Joeys finals squad

Jess KEDWELL-VANSTRATTEN (Northern Spirit); Matthew MILOSEVIC (South Australian Sports Institute); Mark BYRNES (Parramatta Power); Shane CANSDELL-SHERRIFF (Leeds United); lain FYFE (SASI); Aaron GOULDING (SASI); Shane LOCKHART (NSW Institute of Sport); Adrian MADASCHI (Atalanta Bergamo); Anthony DOUMANIS (NSW Institute of Sport); Bradley GROVES (Leeds United); James JOHNSON (Queensland Academy of Sport); Jade NORTH (Australian Institute of Sport/Brisbane Strikers); Lucas PANTELIS (AIS); Wayne SRHOJ (AIS/Brisbane Strikers); Louis BRAIN (Adelaide Force); Joseph DI IORIO (Werder Bremen); Joshua KENNEDY (AIS/Carlton); Dylan MacALLIS-TER (Sydney Olympic); Scott McDONALD (Victorian Institute of Sport).

by a single goal from Scotty McDonald after 23 minutes. The nuggetty little striker latched on to a botched clearance and beat the keeper from close range. The Joeys finished on top of the group and that set up a quarter-final against Qatar. Once again a single goal did it, this time scored by Joey di Iorio ten minutes into the second half. Louis Brain's shot was deflected for a corner and when it came over di Iorio drove the ball through a ruck

of bodies and past the keeper. Both semi-finals and the final were decided after penalty shoot-outs showing the evenness of the competition. Some critics said the games got duller in the latter stages as tiredness and difficult conditions took their toll. But the Australia versus USA semi-final was a cracker. This time Australia went off well as Aaron Goulding scored after only six minutes, followed by McDonald in 35. Landon Donovan cancelled out McDonald's effort a minute later and Oguchi Onyewu equalized seven minutes after the interval. Extra time produced no more goals and the penalty shoot out went to sudden death and eight per side before Kenny Cutler missed and Josh Kennedy didn't.

That led to a rematch with Brazil in the final on 27 November in Auckland. It was tight, dour affair as the Australian defence kept the Brazilians at bay through 120 minutes and threatened to score in fairly regular breakaways. Di Iorio might have won it for the Joeys in the last minute, but once again the dreaded penalty shoot out occurred. Jess Vanstrattan was immense in goal, getting a hand to at least five of the nine he faced and saving one. Another hit the post and just rolled in. For the Joeys, it was cruel. Mark Byrnes missed his first competitive penalty, and he had taken a few, and Iain Fyfe had his one saved to hand the Brazilians the trophy.

Though there were queries raised about the standard of the tournament a very high proportion of the players in the Joeys' squad went on to represent Australia at senior or Olympic level.

I am indebted to Nick Guoth and Thomas Esamie and other contributors to the Ozfootball website, and Peter Desira for access to his press cuttings.

[i] <#_ednref> Rale Rasic, The Rale Rasic Story, pp. 216-17.



Francis Fields

Japan withdrew from this year's Copa America last week, leaving the 12-nation tournament with only 11 teams just three months before it is due to start. Spain coach Vicente del Bosque has now admitted talks have been underway to consider and invitation for the World Cup champions to compete in. However there may still be talks into reinstating Japan. The issue remains unre-

The president of the Japanese Football Association Junji Ogura said the most important thing was for his country to rebuild after the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck northeast Japan on

CONMEBOL spokesman Nestor Benítez suggested Costa Rica or Canada as possible replacements but said nothing had been decided. Both Japan and Mexico had planned to send teams largely made up of youth players to the tournament, with Mexico's top team competing in the Gold Cup—the championship of North America, Central America and the Caribbean, which will be held in June.

The Copa America will be played July 1-24 in Argentina and will be screened by SBS.

President Leóz said Asian champions Japan would be invited to play in the 2015 Copa America, which is to be hosted by Brazil. Japan also played in the 1999 Copa America in Paraguay.

"We are sorry to be pulling out because we recognize that we have advanced in football by being close to South American (teams)." Ogura

Riquelme Returns To Form

In Argentina, Juan Román Riquelme has returned to his old form in the past two weeks, scoring from his trademark free-kicks. Victories over Colón and leaders Estudiantes last weekend provided the giant club's first two wins after three straight losses in a terrible start to the Argentine Clausura season and some much-added relief.

The midfield play-maker had missed four of the first five matches due to injury and had only returned to the lineup two weeks ago and

Japan withdraws from Copa

was effective again, though Boca's attack continues failing to create many chances on goal.

Meanwhile across to Avellaneda in Buenos Aires, Racing Club coach Miguel Angel Russo has insisted that his team are still very much in the title fight, despite an awful run of form which has seen the early season challengers fall down the league table.

Clausura Update

Three successive defeats have seen La Academia fall from top of the pile to ninth place, after many pundits had tipped the swashbuckling team to be serious contenders for the 2011 Clausura. The league remains very close however and the team are still just three points off the summit with 11 games left; and the trainer has dismissed claims that the side's chance has passed.

And onto Vélez Sarsfield who drew during the week in Santiago away to Universidad Católica (see Copa Libertadores wrap) has issued a hands-off warning to Boca Juniors for attacking hit-man Santiago Silva, and blasted reports that linked the Uruguayan striker to the Bombonera via its president Fernando

With Martin Palermo set to retire in June, the Xeneixes are on the lookout for a powerful No. 9 to replace the legend, and recent rumours in the Argentine press have identified 'El Tanque' as the perfect replacement to the 37-year-old. Raffiani however was adamant that the ex-Banfield star would not be going anywhere, and fired a warning at his Argentine rivals.

"We want Silva to stay at Velez until he retires. We want to see him in Velez and the Uruguayan Seleccion because he deserves it. If it was up to me, he has no chance whatsoever of leaving", said Raffiani.

Ortega Disappoints

Finally on news from Argentina, All Boys coach José "Pepe" Romero has admitted that he is disappointed with the performances of former Argentina international Ariel Ortega since the forward's move to Floresta at the start of 2011. However, he has also stated that signing the troubled veteran was always going to be a risk for the struggling Primera club due to his old age.

'El Burrito', 36, arrived at the



Boca coach Julio César Falcioni can now breathe a bit easier after notching two wins on the trot for the struggling Buenos Aires

Albo in January on a short term loan deal, after being told by River Plate coach Juan Jose Lopez that he would not be in the team's plans for the Clausura. The number 10 has failed to shine since the transfer went through, however, and has played only a handful of games as All Boys have seen themselves sucked back into a relegation bat-

Romero, who is the longest serving coach in the division with four vears of service under his belt, argued that Ortega's performances had been below-par.

Seedorf to Brazil?

To Brazil, Ronaldo lured his compatriot Adriano back to his native country and defend the colours of Corinthians. Now he has opened talks with AC Milan Dutch veteran Clarence Seedorf. The Sao Paulo-based giants have employed Ronaldo to broker a deal for the Dutchman.

The ex-Milan striker revealed: "It is true that there is interest, but nothing is signed yet. It is a possibility for mid-year." Corinthians coach Tite also declared: "I would love to have him here. I expressed my position in a rather straight-forward way and everything is now in the hands of the managers." Seedorf is off contract at Milan in June.



Dog Day Afternoon: The match between Católica and Vélez Sarsfield was delayed after a stray dog wanted to join in the match.

Copa Libertadores Wrap

Brazil's latest football sensation Neymar showed the good and bad sides of his emerging talent after scoring a solo goal and getting sent off in Santos' 3-2 win over Chile's Colo Colo in the Copa Libertadores on Wednesday.

The 19-year-old Neymar, who has already scored three goals in three games for the Brazilian national team, jinked past two defenders and then chipped the ball over the goalkeeper to score the third goal for Santos in the 52nd minute, but then pulled on a paper face mask of himself and was sent off for an illegal celebration.

Former Manchester City forward Elano had opened the scoring with a 35-yard free kick that curled into the top corner in the 34th, while a Danilo shot deflected in via defender Paulo Magalhaes two min-

Santos' Zé Roberto and Colo Colo's Uruguayan World Cup defender Andrés Scotti were also shown red cards after clashing in the 56th, before Patricio Jeréz and Diego Rubio added late goals for the Chilean club. In stoppage time, Elano and Colo Colo's Cristóbal Jorquera became the fourth and fifth players to get red cards in the ill-tempered match.

Muricy Ramalho could not have asked for a tougher start as Santos coach than a Libertadores Cup match with Group Five leaders Cerro Porteño of Paraguay next week without three suspended

Barca Come From Behind, Real Win

players including Neymar. The biggest loss will be teenage ace Nevmar, who was handed a second booking because he celebrated his goal by picking up one of the many masks of himself distributed at the Vila Belmiro by one of his sponsors and parading it over his face.

"The play was good but players need to be conscious, calm. Our team felt robbed and were nervous. We must know how to play football but also use our intelligence," he told reporters after watching the match from the stands.

"The squad is very short. We need to study Cerro closely," Ramalho, who steered Fluminense to the Brazilian league title last vear, added as he also contemplated the fact that three other players are unavailable through injury.

The win was Santos' first in four outings and moved the club to five points in Group 5. Paraguay's Cerro Porteño leads with eight points, Colo Colo is second on six, while Venezuela's Deportivo Tachira has two points. The top two qualify, remember. This means Santos travel to Asunción to face the Paraguayan side next week before hosting Tachira the following week.

Elsewhere, defending champion Internacional of Brazil missed a chance to secure a spot in the final 16 after losing 1-0 at Mexican club Chiapas. Caracas of Venezuela won 2-1 at Chile's Unión Española, and Nacional of Uruguay had a 2-0 win against Brazil's Fluminense.

Internacional only needed a draw

to qualify but is still in a good position to progress ahead of the final group games. Sebastián Jaime opened the scoring for Unión Española in the third minute, but strikes from Luis Peña in the 34th and Joseph Martínez in the 84th helped Caracas to a comeback win. The victory put Caracas atop Group 4 with nine points from five matches, while Unión Española needs a string of results to go its way after remaining stuck on four points with one match left.

Twice champions Gremio of Brazil qualified for the Libertadores Cup knockout stage with a 2-0 home win over Atletico Junior of Colombia in Group Two last Thursday. Junior, beaten for the first time after four wins, had already qualified and remain top of the group with 12 points, two more than Gremio, after five matches.

Gremio are the sixth team to have reached the last 16 before the end of the group phase. Paraguay's Libertad and former champions Cruzeiro of Brazil, Estudiantes de La Plata of Argentina and Peñarol of Uruguay have also qualified. Tricky winger Lucio put Gremio ahead just past the half-hour mark with a low shot from the left and striker Borges increased their lead after an hour when he backheeled a cross into the net from close range. Jorge Wilstermann of Bolivia picked up their first point after four defeats in Group Six with a 0-0 draw at home to Emelec. A victory at altitude in Cochabamba would have put Emelec level with title holders Internacional of Brazil on 10 points at the top of the group. Instead Emelec remain third with eight, a point behind Chiapas of

Inter are at home to Emelec in a decider in Porto Alegre in two weeks time while Chiapas visit Wilstermann in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Argentina's Velez Sarsfield, champions in 1994, draw 0-0 away to Universidad Católica of Chile in Santiago and will need to win their final Group Four match at Venezuelan leaders Caracas FC next week to reach the last 16.

With one round of matches to go, Caracas have nine points, Católica eight, Velez seven and Chile's Union Española four. Velez midfielder Augusto Fernández was sent off in the 65th minute for a second booking after making a dangerous challenge and the match delayed for ten minutes to the intrusion of a dog on the pitch. Scenes that only occur in South American football.

Pepe **Lopez**

Kaka returned to the Real Madrid starting eleven this weekend in an away fixture to the Basque team of Athletic

The 28 year old Brazilian who signed for a 2009 world record transfer fee of 56 million pounds from AC Milan to Real Madrid. has been plagued with injury during his time at the club, and has only averaged ten appearances each year since his transfer. However the Brazilian star has returned to Los Blancos, "The Whites", ahead of what is shaping up to be four consecutive El Clasico encounters in as many weeks, and he may yet prove his 56 million pound evaluation.

Kaka netted two goals from the

spot against Bilbao, and directed

most of Real attacking play from the centre of midfield, in essence Real Madrid's answer to Barcelona's Lionel Messi. On this occasion Athletic Bilbao

provided little resistance to the the visiting Madridistas, but in the past they have provided a fierce rivallry. La Liga champions on 8 ocassions Bilbao proudly represent the Basque region of Spain and France. Both praise and criticism is directed to Athletic Bilbao for its policy of only signing players of Basque origins. Remarkably Bilbao are only one of three clubs never relegated from La Liga and continue to defy critics and mainstream Spanish ideals against the odds. During the reign of Facist Spanish dictator Franco, 1939-1975, Spanish Football Clubs were made to have only Spanish language names, since Franco's death, Bilbao changed the spelling of their nickname from Spanish Atletico to English Athletic, whilst in contrast Atletico Madrid retained the Spanish title, and ironically were known to have been admired by Franco, even more so than Real Madrid. Bilbao are also affectionately referred to as The Lions "Los Leones", as their ground is located next to the San Mames Church. Mames was canonised as a Saint for being fed to the Lions by the Romans, only for the Lions to refuse to eat Mames. A most inspiring story for Basque defiance, Bilbao's stadium is named after San Mames.

Back to the match, Real Madrid opened the scoring in the 14th minute from the penalty spot after Bilbao's goalkeeper Gorka Iraizoz brought down Madrid's Angel Di Maria. Is was not Iraizoz's afternoon, twice in the first half he was found stranded

outside of his own penalty area. only for Angel De Maria and Gonzalo Higuain to both put their long range shots on the open Bilbao goal wide of the mark. Angel Di Maria was also taken down in the second half in the Bilbao penalty area, perhaps with a bit of play acting, with Kaka converting his second spotkick.

Not long after, substitute Ronal do scored a third goal for the visitors and the tie was effectively all

In the Catalan capital of Barcelona, Barca were given shock when visitors Almeria, bottom of La Liga took the lead in the 50th minute, only for Barca to respond with 3 goals, including a brace from Lionel Messi.

Athletic Bilbao 0 Real Madrid San Mames, Bilbao, April 10,

2011.

Goals: Real Madrid: Kaka (pen 14'), Kaka (pen 54'), Cristiano Ronaldo (70')

Upcoming El Clasico dates (Real Madrid v Barcelona);

22, 2011

Santiago Bernabéu, Madrid, April 16, 2011

Copa Del Rey Final Estadio Mestalla, Valencia, April

Possible UEFA Champions League Semi-Final

1st Leg April 26-27, 2011

Possible UEFA Champions League Semi-Final 2nd Leg May 03-04, 2011



Real Madrid playmaker Kaka is hopeful he can start to enjoy his football again after scoring a brace in Saturday's 3-0 win over Athletic Bilbao





Mike Salter

Despite another goal from redhot striker Alex Smith, Sydney Olympic tasted their first defeat of the season at the hands of the Sutherland Sharks on Saturday evening, Goals from Sam Awad and Matthew Bailey gave the 2009 champions a share of the competition lead after three rounds.

Elsewhere on Saturday, Bonnyrigg's frustrating start to the season continued as they were held to another draw, this time by Bankstown City, in a scoreless match at Jensen Park. Another team registering their third successive draw was Manly United, whose striker Justin Hayward scored two late goals to wipe out the 2-0 lead provided by Marconi's Matthew Mayora at Bossley Park

In Sunday's fixtures, Sydney United posted a thumping 6-1 victory over Rockdale, including a hat-trick from Elsid Barkhousir, to join Sutherland at the top. Defending champions Blacktown picked up their first point of the campaign, drawing 1-1 away to Parramatta FC, and Saso Petrovski was the star of the show as the South Coast Wolves upset APIA-Leichhardt 3-2 at Lambert Park. Details of that game follow.

APIA-Leichhardt Tigers 2-3 South Coast Wolves

The men from the Illawarra struggled to get off the bottom of the table last season, but after three rounds of the NSW Premier League the South Coast Wolves

Jarrod Ellis

With a record of four wins from

four matches in 2011 the Sun-

shine Coast Fire juggernaut

rolled into Borzi Park on Sat-

urday evening and was fully

expected to take all three points

against what has been a lacklus-

tre FNQ Bulls side this season.

A free-scoring team in 2010, the

Bulls have so far disappointed in

front of goal in 2011 and faced

with a defence headlined by the

likes of Greig Henslee, Ryan

Smith and Antony Hall it appeared

unlikely that the home side would

be able to find the cutting edge

in front of goal to secure a result

That fear proved unfounded how-

ever as a goal second half goal

from David Ruiz and a terrific de-

fensive effort enabled the Bulls to

The result is not only a boost for a

Bulls side still searching for their

first win of the season, but also

the entire league after having seen

Sunshine Coast comfortably de-

feat three of their main rivals for

the QSL title in the opening four

Despite likely viewing the result

as two points dropped the draw

keens alive Fire's Kiwi import Ja-

against the champions.

grind out a 1-1 draw.

rounds.

SUTHERLAND TOPPLE OLYMPIC

are only a point off the leaders, thanks to a deserved 3-2 win over APIA-Leichhardt in pelting rain at Lambert Park.

The conditions were heavy from the outset, and neither side could make much impact in a sterile opening ten minutes. South Coast right-back Alex Mansueto had the first chance of the game, forcing a good save from Jose Bello Amigo after eleven minutes, while Nick Rizzo's low cross was touched just wide of goal by David D'Apuzzo at the other end.

On 14 minutes, the Wolves' returning hero Saso Petrovski made his presence felt with a dipping free kick which was pushed aside with some difficulty by Bello Amigo. Eight minutes later, however, there was no denying the former Newcastle Jet.

Following the break-up of an APIA attack, midfielder Lawrence Drake, playing against his old club, set Petrovski through on goal in the inside-right channel. As the APIA defence vainly appealed for offside, "Sash" reminded the spectators of his class with a cool right-footed finish.

APIA had much of the play from that point on, but could not fashion any chances of note. On 40 minutes, South Coast unexpectedly made it two; a superb crossfield ball from Mark Picciolini reached Chris Nathaniel on the right, and the midfielder did well to round his man before beating Bello Amigo comprehensively with his left foot.

The hosts began the second half much as they had ended the first, with a great deal of the possession but no real penetration.



Through the wind and the rain: Parramatta FC (stripes) and Blacktown City battled out a 1-1 draw as the heavens opened in the FNSW Premier League yesterday. Photo: CARLOS FURTADO/Courtesy FNSW

South Coast, for their part, were happy to soak up possession and wait for an opportunity on the counter.

APIA revived somewhat when burly New Zealand striker Sam Messam came on for the tired-looking Younis; Messam almost scored immediately upon his arrival, when a smart pass from D'Apuzzo set him free on goal on the left. Taking too much time over the shot, he made things easy for South Coast keeper Brody Crane.

On 73 minutes, soon after a halfchance for APIA's lively Chris James, Picciolini might have wrapped things up for the Wolves with a well-placed header across goal, but Cole Tinkler headed off the line.

APIA were handed a lifeline on 83 minutes, when Messam went down rather easily under a challenge from South Coast fullback Nick Littler. James assumed the spot-kick duties, and fired his shot confidently into the top left-hand corner.

It was to be only a brief reprieve, as South Coast restored their two-goal lead within a minute. A gem of a pass from Petrovski released substitute John Martinoski on the right, and the little winger checked inside before firing a left-footed shot at goal. It was de-

flected to Cameron Littler in the centre, who had time to measure his shot and beat Bello Amigo at (and with some help from) his near post.

APIA were not finished yet, and James should have done better after surging through the weary South Coast defence in the final minute; he shot over the top. Yet the nimble midfielder, easily APIA's best player on the day, helped to make the score respectable when his well-flighted cross from the left was glanced in by the head of substitute Anthony Hartshorn.

NSW Results

ROUND 3: FIRST GRADE:

Sutherland Sharks 2 (Sam Awad 11m Matthew Bailey 57m) Sydney Olympic 1 (Alexander Smith 86m), Marconi Stallions 2 (Matthew Mayora 57/68m) Manly United FC 2 (Justin Hayward 77/82m), APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2 (Christopher James 89m Anthony Hartshorn 90m) South Coast Wolves 3 (Saso Petrovski 23m Christoper Nathaniel 41m Cameron Littler 83m), Parramatta FC 1 (Chris Camilleri 79m) Blacktown City FC 1 (Mitchell Duke 71m), Sydney United 4 (Benjamin Vidiac 14m Elsid Barkhousir 32/33/88m Steven Hayes 55m Luka Glavas 90m) Rockdale City Suns 1 (Sash Tirovski 38m).

GRADE 20:

Bankstown City FC 2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Sutherland Sharks 1 Sydney Olympic 2, Marconi Stallions 4 Manly United FC 1, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 3 South Coast Wolves 0, Parramatta FC 1 Blacktown City FC 0, Sydney United 2 Rockdale City Suns 1.

Next Week

Bonnyrigg White Eagles vs Sydney United Bonnyrigg Sports Club 7:00 PM Sat 16/Apr Rockdale City Suns vs Marconi Stallions

llinden Sports Centre 7:00 PM Sat 16/Apr Sutherland Sharks vs Parramatta FC

Seymour Shaw Park 7:00 PM Sat 16/Api Manly United FC vs Sydney Olympic

Cromer Park 3:00 PM Sun 17/Apr

South Coast Wolves vs Bankstown City John Crehan Park 3:00 PM Sun 17/Apr

Blacktown City vs APIA Leichhardt Tigers Lily Homes 3:00 PM Sun 17/Apr

Standings

P W D L F A GD Pts

1 Sydney United	3	2	0	1	9	3	6	
2 Sutherland Sharks	3	2	0	1	6	4	2	
3 Sydney Olympic	3	2	1	0	5	2	3	
4 South Coast W	3	2	1	0	5	6	-1	
5 Marconi Stallions	3	1	1	1	5	4	1	
6 Bankstown City	3	1	1	1	2	3	-1	
7 Manly United FC	3	0	0	3	6	6	0	
8 Bonnyrigg WE	3	0	0	3	3	3	0	
9 Parramatta FC	3	0	1	2	4	5	-1	
10 APIA Leichhardt	3	0	1	2	4	5	-1	
11 Blacktown City	3	0	2	1	2	4	-2	
12 Rockdale City	3	0	2	1	2	8	-6	
								d

NQ Bulls Halt Run of Fire

to go through 2011 unbeaten.

The team most likely to put that statement to the test was also in action on Saturday night, Brisbane Strikers defeating Bundaberg Spirit 4-1.

The result would have come as no surprise to supporters of either side with Bundaberg having failed to take a point off Brisbane in the entirety of QSL history.

The home side's star striker Commins Menapi got his name onto the scoresheet once again, netting a goal in the 59th minute but it was Brisbane's young striker Matt 'Turtle' Thurtell who was the star of the show.

Thurtell was in fine form, his first goal arriving in only the fifth minute a finish from inside the box leaving Bundaberg keeper Dale Hill with little hope.

The Turtle would score three more after that but the second of those didn't arrive until the second half as Bundaberg put together an impressive spell of play that saw them unlucky not to score on a couple of occasions.

Thurtell's struck his second goal just after the half but it was his third goal that was the most crucial for his side, another finish in the box that killed off the spark of hope in the home side ignited by Menapi's goal.

A good evening for Thurtell was rounded out late on in the match, his fourth goal of the game leaving the scoreline looking more lopsided than it perhaps deserved.



FNQ Bulls celebrate after scoring the first goal of the evening in the match against Sunshine Coast Fire Photo: JIM HATCHMAN

After suffering a 7-0 thrashing at the hands of Brisbane last weekend Capricorn Cougars returned to Jardine Park and attempted to regroup in their match against QAS. Cougars' coach Washington Gonzales would have been pleased with the effort shown in the first half despite his side trailing 2-0 by the time the 39th minute had passed

Chris Swain pegged one back for the Cougars shortly before halftime to give the home side some hope for the second stanza but it wasn't enough as QAS held on for a 2-1 win.

Whitsunday Miners travelled to Ayr to take on NQ McDonald's Razorbacks in what was the Mackay side's third successive away match of the season.

Consistent poor weather has played havoc with the Miners season this year and they've done well to take points from all their matches played to this point.

That determination in spite of adversity was on show once again against the Razorbacks but on this occasion it wasn't enough for Graham Harvey's side. A first half goal from Brett Hay and late second half efforts from Robin Edwards and Jake Navarro sealed a comfortable 3-0 win for home side, the result keeping the North Queenslanders within touching distance of the top of the league.

Queensland Results

Bundaberg Spirit 1 (Menapi 89) v Brisbane Strikers 4 (Thurtell 5, 46, 74, 83)

Capricorn Cougars 1 (Swain 42) v Qld Academy Sport 2 (Ronto 33, Quinn 39)

NQ Razorbacks 3 (Hay 12, Edwards 80, Navarro 88) v Whitsunday Miners 0

FNQ Bulls 1 (Ruiz 61) v Sunshine Coast FC 1 (Molea 72)

Southern Cross Utd 1 (McCormack 9) v Gold Coast Stars 3 (Marsh 34, 85, Prugh 67)

Next Week

Brisbane Strikers v NQ Razorbacks Sat 16-Apr 7:00pm

Whitsunday Miners v Southern Cross Sat 16-Apr 7:00pm

FNQ Bulls v Capricorn Cougars Sat 16-Apr 8:00pm

Sunshine Coast FC v Gold Coast Stars Sun 17-Apr 2:00pm

QAS v Bundaberg Spirit Sun 17-Apr 4:00pm

Standings

	Р	W	D	L	H	Α	GD	Pts
Sunshine Coast	5	4	1	0	11	2	9	13
Brisbane Strikers	4	3	0	1	14	3	11	9
NQ McDonald's	5	3	0	2	10	5	5	9
Gold Coast Stars	3	2	1	0	7	4	3	7
Qls Academy	4	1	2	1	6	7	-1	5
Southern Cross Utd	4	1	0	3	5	9	-4	3
FNQ Bulls	3	0	2	1	4	6	-2	2
Whitsunday Miners	3	0	2	1	2	5	-3	2
Capricorn Cougars	4	0	1	3	4	14	-10	1
Bundaberg Spirit	3	0	1	2	3	11	-8	1

son Hicks' claims during the week of his new side being 'easily' able

South Hobart back on top



Walter Pless

THE Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League table is starting to have a familiar look about it.

South Hobart, the reigning champions, moved to the top of the table after a goal three minutes into stoppage time gave them a 3-2 away win over fifth-placed Kingborough Lions United at Lightwood Park on Saturday afternoon.

Previous pace-setters Clarence United dropped to second spot after being held to a 2-2 draw at home at Wentworth Park on Saturday night by bottom-side Glenorchy Knights.

That result puts the pressure firmly on Olympia Warriors, who face Beachside on Sunday. Olympia and Glenorchy Knights now share last place. Both sides have just 3 points and they have identical goaldifferences and goals 'for' and 'against' statistics.

Andy Brennan put South Hobart ahead against Lions after 11 minutes, but Lions captain Marcello Marchioli equalised from a penalty, awarded for Loic Feral's foul on David Cooper, in the 13th minute. Former South Hobart player Cooper put the Lions in front in the 22nd minute. His first shot was

miscued, but when the ball came back to him, he rammed it home off the inside of the far post.

Brayden Mann made it 2-2 at the break when a defender flicked on Daniel Brown's long throw-in from the right, but straight to the feet of the South Hobart striker, who placed his shot inside the far post.

The visitors dominated the second half and should have scored at least a couple of goals, but defender Will Abbott was tireless at the heart of the Kingborough defence and saved two certain goals with clearances off the line, while another shot came back off the post.

The pressure finally told in the 93rd minute when Brennan's initial shot was blocked and the ball came back to him. He slipped it square to substitute Luke Huigsloot, who curled home a great shot from 20 metres to give South Hobart the three points against a heart-broken Lions outfit who had fought tooth and claw to try and hang on for a

New Town Eagles clung to third spot with a 3-3 draw against the visiting fourth-placed Tilford Zebras, who came close to spoiling the Eagles' 50th anniversary celebrations. It was only a last-minute goal by substitute Alex Leszczynski that earned Eagles a point.

Zebras dominated the opening half and went close to scoring through Dwayne Walsh, Jayden Welch and Liam Scott, but it was Adam McKeown who put the home side into the lead midway through the half. Juma Barabara lobbed the ball into



Tilford Zebras' Dwayne Walsh (left) about to be tackled by New Town Eagles' Adam Bates. Photo: WALTER PLESS

the middle from the left and McKeown appeared to control the ball with his outstretched arm before beating goalkeeper Troy Kaden.

Zebras drew level in the 52nd minute through a penalty, awarded for a blatant push in the back by Michael Anderson on Brett Andrews after Henry Fagg had floated a free-kick from the right into the box. Walsh made no mistake from the spot.

Welch gave Zebras a 2-1 lead from Matt Hall's cut-back from the left in the 61st minute, whereupon Eagles coach George Krambousanos brought on three substitutes, replacing Anderson, Ben Whitehall and Alex Gordon with Jacob Clamp, David Cox and Leszczynski.

Leszczynski levelled the match at 2-2 in the 70th minute with a penalty after Hall had fouled Ba-

Jonathon Ladic restored the Zebras' lead in the 84th minute with a superb 25-metre free-kick awarded for a handball by Clamp.

In the 90th minute, it was 3-3 as Simon Strang slipped the ball forward to Leszczynski, who scored with a delightful chip over Kaden and into the far right-hand corner

Corey Smith gave Glenorchy Knights an early lead against Clarence United, but Chris Nicholson

Smith was sent off after collect-

Metrostars Matricciani Swoops On Eagles

ing a second yellow card, but Andrew Robb put the Knights in front again and it took a late goal from Jae Ho Lee to salvage a point for

Ulverstone stayed top in the Forestry Tasmania Northern Premier League with a creditable 3-1 away win over Burnie United.

Launceston United were on the wrong end of a narrow defeat in a goal feast last weekend, and the story was the same this Saturday when they went down 4-3 at home against Launceston City.

Northern Rangers finally found a semblance of championship form and downed the highly rated Prospect Knights 3-0 at the NTCA Ground, while Somerset came back to earth when they lost 4-2 at home at Cardigan Street against Riverside Olympic.

In League One, Hobart United presented their championship credentials with an impressive 4-3 away win over leaders Taroona at Kelvedon Park.

University continued their fine run by squeezing home 2-1 against the visiting Nelson Eastern Suburbs at Olinda Grove, while DOSA won the bottom-of-the-table clash, downing Southern FC 5-1 away at the Showgrounds.

Southern Division

	Р	W	D	L	F.	ΑI	Pts
Clarence United	5	4	0	1	12	12	12
South Hobart FC	5	3	2	0	15	4	11
New Town Eagles	5	3	1	1	9	6	10
Tilford Zebras	5	2	2	1	14	8	8
Kingborough Lior	าร5	2	0	3	9	14	6
Beachside FC	5	1	1	3	4	7	4
Olympia FC	5	1	0	4	8	14	3
Glenorchy Knight	ts5	0	2	3	6	12	2

Forestry Tasmania Results

Southern Premier League New Town Eagles 3 Tilford Zebras 3 Kingborough Lions 2 South Hobart 3 Clarence United 2 Glenorchy Knights 2 Beachside FC 3 Olympia FC 3

Northern Premier League Launceston United 3 Launceston City 4 Burnie United 1 Ulverstone 3 Northern Rangers 3 Prospect Knights 0 Somerset 2 Riverside Olympic 4

Next Week

Friday 15th April 2011 Olympia FC v South Hobart FC Warriors Park 08:00 PM

Saturday 16th April 2011 Kingborough Lions v Glenorchy Knights Lightwood Park 02:30 PM Beachside FC v Tilford Zebras Sandown Park 1 06:30 PM

Sunday 17th April 2011 New Town Eagles v Clarence United Clare Street 02:30 PM

Saturday 16th April 2011 Ulverstone v Northern Rangers Valley Road 02:30 PM **Devonport City v Prospect Knights** Valley Road 06:30 PM Riverside Olympic v Burnie United Windsor Park 02:30 PM Somerset v Launceston United Cardigan Street 02:30 PM

Northern Division

P W D L F A Pts

Ulverstone 2	2	0	0	9	1	
Prospect Knights2	2	0	0	4	0	
Devonport City 3	2	0	1	8	7	
Northern Rangers3	1	1	1	4	3	
Riverside Olympic3	1	1	1	6	7	
Somerset 3	1	0	2	5	5	
Burnie United 2	1	0	1	3	5	
Launceston City 3	0	2	1	2	3	
Launceston United3	0	0	3	6	16	

Adamopoulos

Round 3 of the FFSA Devine Super League saw MetroStars striker Michael Matricciani narrowly miss out on a hat-trick after scoring a second half brace in his sides 2:0 defeat of Adelaide Blue Eagles at the Marden Sports Complex.

It was a tightly played first half where both sides created scoring opportunities with both keepers and backlines protecting their goals well. Young Ian Kamau featured extensively in the Eagles advances down the left field, but was contained by defenders Daniel Menechella and Captain Lee Robertson. MetroStars had several half chances with Adam Van Dommelle, Stephen Grelli, Francesco Monterosso and Matricciani trying to get the first score on the board.

By the 25th minute mark Eagles midfielder Nicholas Bucco was testing the tempers of the MetroStars defenders and the boundaries of referee Paul Centrangelo, his antics having Menechella finally giving in with a heavy handed tackle on Bucco that earned him a vellow. Chris Annicchiarico came tantalisingly close a few minutes later, nodding away a corner kick that just skimmed over the cross bar.

Bucco again was involved in more niggling and frustrations, referee Centrangelo allowing play to go on. Matricciani started to warm up his kicking foot late in the first half only his aim on target letting him down. As the first 45 minutes drew to a close it was MetroStars just having the upper hand over the Eagles with more effective use and possession of the ball, although the Eagles defence led by Dean Kenrick, Chris Atsikbasis, Annicchiarico and Adam Vizzari

MetroStars defender Adam Van Domelle gives a few words of advice for Eagles #8 Nicholas Bucco under the watchful eye of while referee Paul Centrangelo. MetroStars Michael Matricciani is closely guarded by Christopher Annicchiarico. Photo: PETE HARRISON

Both sides came out playing a tight game in the early stages of the second half. Kamau trying to break the stale mate within the first few minutes, only to find himself totally surrounded by the big men of Metros backline. MetroStars youngster Anthony Taormina had his chance at glory in the 54th minute as he made his charge into the box but Vizzari took care of him quickly.

Grelli and young Jackson Groves were targeted for some special Eagles attention as they looked dangerous through the midfield only to have Matricciani and Monterosso take over in the attack. Season 2011 Eagles signing Tony Hatzis found himself in the ref's little black book

in the 55th minute after bringing Grelli down, the free kick bearing fruit for the Stars. As the kick came in Taormina rose above the pack to head the ball in towards a congested goalmouth, Matricciani waiting to tap it in with his right foot beating a lunging Damian Dimella.

Eagles now changed their target to Taormina, as his runs and supply up front were becoming more frequent. Blue Eagles tried to equalize in the 65th minute through some scrappy play in front of goal, eventually breaking through the Metros defence but keeper Dan Godley making no mistake plucking the incoming shot out of the air strongly.

Three minutes later in the 68th MetroStars struck again from a set piece, this time a corner kick. The MetroStars setup drew the Eagles defenders into then out of the box, allowing the kick to be headered inwards, defenders all scrambling to

The ball then became almost pinball like as it was deflected, kicked, then deflected by Kenrick and just touched off the strikers left sliding foot. The goal sent the Eagles keeper into raptures of extreme animation, his euphemisms and comments of frustration loud and clear for all

Eagles coach Vojo Gluscevic made an immediate double change taking Bucco and Vizzari off for the experienced defender Gianluca Lagati and young ex SASI talent Paul Radice.

Metrostars coach David Terminello made his first change in the 71st minute taking Jackson Groves off who had been kept relatively quiet, for the experience of midfielder Louis Brain to inject some more potence into his side. MetroStars continued to push forward, keeping the Eagles on the back foot, despite defender Annicchiarico making some great defensive moves to deny any more chances for is opponents to score.

With ten minutes to go, Eagles striker Chad Bugeja had a chance to peg one back, his shot cleared off the line. Matricciani was lurking dangerously in front of goals waiting for the elusive 3rd goal for the hat trick, that wasn't coming easily.

Twice more DeLucia denied the striker his moment with a great reflex save in the dying moments of the game to keep the result at 2:0. So with the final whistle it was the MetroStars that were to take all three points in this encounter making amends from their two and only defeats last season at the hands of the Eagles.

Around the grounds in other matches the Croydon Kings made it another win for the season and top of the table for the moment as they defeated Para Hills Knights 2:1 at home at Polonia Reserve. Goal scorers for Kings were Okello and Kosnik, while Russell Clayton scored for the Knights. At Steve Woodcock Sports Centre Campbelltown City Red Devils and Adelaide Galaxy drew 1:1, Devils Coach Jason Trimboli scoring for his side and White scoring for the Galaxy.

In the night match at Carnegie Reserve the Western Strikers fought out a strong 2:0 win over Kossie's Raiders, giving them their first win for the season.

Adelaide City are to host Modbury Jets at Adelaide City Park on Monday night to round off the weeks

FFSA Results

Adelaide Blue Eagles 0 (0)

MetroStars 2 (0) Matricciani Best Players: Adelaide Blue Eagles – Atsikbasis, Kamau & MetroStars - Dommele, Robertson & Grelli

Croydon 2 (1) Koszik, Okello

Para Hills 1 (0) Clayton Best Players: Croydon – Tekle, Gazettas & May Para Hills – Moore, Goulding & Elsey

Campbelltown 1 (0) Trimboli

Adelaide Galaxy 1 (0) White Best Players: Campbelltown – D'Aloisio, Signoriello & Paleka Adelaide Galaxy – Varma, Dittmar & De Giovan

Western Strikers 2 Raiders 0

Standings

		•••	_		UI A	god	1 64	•
Croydon	3	2	1	0	5	2	3	7
MetroStars	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	7
AdelaideCity	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	6
Para Hills	3	2	0	1	4	3	1	(
Campbelltown	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
Galaxy	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
Strikers	3	1	0	2	4	4	0	3
Blue Eagles	3	1	0	2	3	5	-2	3
Raiders	3	0	0		2		-4	(
Modbury	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	(

Next Week

Modbury vs Campbelltown Jet Park 7:45 PM Fri 15/Apr

Metro Stars vs Adelaide City TK Shutter Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 16/Apr

Para Hills vs Adelaide Blue Eagles The Paddocks 3:00 PM Sat 16/Apr

Raiders vs Croydon Croatian Sports Centre 7:00 PM Sat 16/Apr

Adelaide Galaxy vs Western Strikers

Balcatta Opens Gap



Jacob Kagi

Balcatta has continued its impressive start to the WA Premier League season with a 4-1 thrashing of Inglewood United.

The northern suburbs side came back from a goal down, thanks largely to a pair of braces from strikers Mo Atak and Ashley Rosindale, to remain four points clear at the top of the table with 18 points from seven games.

Paul Dugdale gave United a surprise lead after 17 minutes and at that point it appeared Inglewood could cause a major upset, but Atak levelled the scores after 32 minutes and Rosindale gave the hosts a half-time lead with a 39th minute strike.

Balcatta were on top throughout the second half and put the result beyond doubt when Atak netted his second goal in the 75th minute, before Rosindale got his side's fourth goal four minutes later.

Inglewood's second straight loss left it sitting just two points above the two-team relegation zone with six points from five games.

But Western Knights maintained the pressure on Balcatta with a 4-1

thumping of relegation strugglers Cockburn City.

The Knights scored three goals in the final 30 minutes of the game to claim a much-needed victory, which sees them sit four points behind Balcatta in second place, despite having played one game less than the league leaders.

Veteran striker Stuart Montgomery gave the hosts the lead just two minutes in but Johnny Mirco responded for City to level the scores six minutes later.

Cockburn resisted the Knights' pressure until the 63rd minute, when Montgomery secured a brace when he slotted a penalty. Glen Thomas then scored in the 70th minute to wrap up the three points before Paul Cooke added another in the final minutes.

Cockburn took four points from their opening two games but haven't picked up any since, which sees it sit in 11th spot, two points behind Inglewood.

Todd Harnwell's 86th minute goal snatched a 1-0 victory for Sorrento over Stirling Lions.

The Lions hadn't lost since round three but were unable to take advantage of their chances and were made to pay when the brother of former Perth Glory defender Jamie Harnwell netted the winner. Sorrento's victory gave it a threepoint gap from the relegation zone with seven points from its five games, while Stirling is already 10 points behind league leaders

Balcatta, but remained in the top five despite the loss.

Perth SC continued its impressive form with a 1-0 victory over ECU Joondalup.

Perth have gone four matches without a loss after Jason Dos Santos gave it the lead just after half-time and the hosts held on in front of the Dorrien Gardens faithful.

ECU made a lively start to the game and had several first-half chances, but were made to pay for their inability to convert those by Dos Santos' strike. Joondalup had been among the

two straight losses have halted that charge, as it sits fourth with 10 points from seven games. Mandurah City and Bayswater

early leaders two weeks ago but

City played out a scrappy 1-1

Andy Brown gave Mandurah the lead after 10 minutes but veteran Cisco Jorqueira gave Bayswater a point with his 68th minute goal. Floreat Athena ended a run of poor form with a 2-0 victory over NTC, but it did nothing to ease the glamour club's relegation fears as the match doesn't count

Calum O'Connel gave Athena the lead after 25 minutes, before Phil Arnold wrapped up the victory with a goal just before full-

Athena have just two points from their first five games



ECU Joondalup striker John Thornley and Perth SC defender Adam Bachiller in action at The BGC Stadium on Saturday. Photo: PETER SIMCOX



Swan United has claimed the 2011 State League Division One Night Series after a deserved 3-1 win over Wanneroo City. John Monterosso and Craig Tooley put John O'Reilly's team in a dominant position, before an own goal in the final seven minutes of play made the score line 3-0. A consolation goal from the penalty spot to Roos captain Brian Cairney wasn't enough to mount a late challenge. Photo: PETER SIMCOX

All Flags WA Results

Floreat Athena 2 NTC 0; Perth SC 1 (Dos Santos 46) ECU Joondalup 0; Balcatta 4 (Atak 32, 75, Rosindale 39, 79) Inglewood Utd 1 (Dugdale 18); Mandurah City 1 (Brown 11) Bayswater City 1 (Jorquera 68); Sorrento 1 (T Harnwell 86) Stirling Lions 0; Western Knights 4 (Montgomery 2, pen 64, Thomas 70, Cooke 88) Cockburn City 1 (Mirco 8).

Floreat Athena 3 NTC 1; Perth SC 5 ECU Joondalup 2; Balcatta 2 Inglewood Utd 1; Mandurah City 2 Bayswater City 4; Sorrento 3 Stirling Lions 2; Western Knights 6 Cock-

Floreat Athena 2 NTC 2; Perth SC 1 ECU Joondalup 1; Balcatta 3 Inglewood Utd 2; Mandurah City 1 Bayswater City 4; Sorrento 3 Stirling Lions 0; Western Knights 1 Cock-

NEXT MEEK

Inglewood United v Stirling Lions 6PR Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 16/Apr Armadale SC v NTC Alfred Skeet Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 16/Apr Cockburn City v Balcatta SC Dalmatinac Park 3:00 PM Sat 16/Apr ECU Joondalup v Mandurah City Joondalup Football Stdm 3:00 PM Sat 16/ Apr Bayswater City v Sorrento FC Frank Drago Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 16/Apr Floreat Athena FC v Perth SC E&D Litis Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 17/Apr BYE v Western Knights

All Flags WA Premier League

	Р	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	P
1 Balcatta	7	6	0	1	21	7	14	1
2 Western Knights	6	4	2	0	11	3	8	1
3 Perth SC	5	3	1	1	9	5	4	1
4 ECU Joondalup	7	3	1	3	10	13	-3	1
5 Stirling Lions	7	2	2	3	10	12	-2	
6 Bayswater City	7	2	2	3	11	14	-3	
7 Armadale	6	2	1	3	7	9	-2	
8 Sorrento	5	2	1	2	6	8	-2	
9 Mandurah City	7	2	1	4	7	10	-3	
10 Inglewood United	5	2	0	3	8	10	-2	
11 Cockburn City	5	1	1	3	6	11	-5	
12 Floreat Athena	5	0	2	3	6	10	-4	

Old Foes To Meet For loop Federation Cup





Russ **Gibbs**

Belconnen United and Canberra FC will meet in the 2011 loop Federation Cup Final after winning their respective matches on the weekend to book their shot at the first silverware of the ACT football season. The Blue Devils defeated Canberra Olympic 2-0 to finish top of Pool A whilst Canberra FC were victorious in their Pool B top-of-the-table showdown with Cooma Tigers, walloping their opponents 10-2, at Deakin Stadium.

Canberra FC, last season's treble winners and current Cup holders, survived a first-half scare from Cooma Tigers and struck twice on the cusp of half-time to ensure that they would be back to defend their title. That double blow seemed to knock the stuffing out of the Tigers and the hosts ran away with the game in the second half with a quite breathtaking display of attacking

Adam Spaleta and Victor Yanes were the tormentors in chief grabbing four goals apiece to leave the Tigers shell-shocked. Josip Jadric and Ivan Pavlak were the other Canberra FC scorers on a sobering afternoon for Cooma. Indeed, had the home team taken even half of the chances they created in the first half it could have been even more humiliating for the Tigers. Serdan Bircan did score two for Cooma but it was scant consolation for a well beaten team.

Belconnen United meanwhile headed into their final match of the pool stages knowing that a draw



ACT loop Fed Cup match action as Elyja Shah (Cooma Tigers, black and gold) battles with Aidan Brunskill (Canberra FC, red) Photo: JAMES **RUSSELL-JONES**

be enough to secure their place in the final with their opponents needing maximum points to overturn the Blue Devils goal difference advan-

With both sides being evenly matched for the majority of the contest it required a special goal to separate the two and it duly arrived from the boot of NIKE Chance winner Tom Rogic. The impressive midfielder created space for himself thirty metres from the target before curling a breathtaking leftfooted effort into the top corner of the Olympic goal. When Rogic repeated the feat, advancing clear and rolling in a brilliant second from a tight angle approximately fifteen a 2-0 win and a place in the loop Federation Cup showpiece.

In other matches in Pool A State League Division One White Eagles claimed their third Rock Premier League scalp of the preseason competition by ensuring that Woden Valley went the same way as Belconnen United and Tuggeranong United, defeating their higher-ranked opponents 3-2 in an entertaining match.

Andrew Sellas gave the White Eagles an early third minute lead and when Irish recruit Eoin Devanev added a brace of second half goals in the 47th and 76th minutes to send

up for Dean Ugrinic's Olympic side looked secure. Woden though were sixty seconds of Allan's goal to give and the Blue Devils could celebrate galvanised into action by those setbacks and forced their way back into the match sixty seconds after Devaney's second when Ben Pagett scored. A late strike to Lachlan Nichols reduced the gap further and ensured that the final six minutes would be a nervy time for the White Eagles, but they held on to record another famous victory.

Canberra City completed their Pool A engagements with a 4-1 win over Tuggeranong United in a feisty encounter. Nikola Taneski had City in front after 14 minutes with a trademark finish and further goals to Misko Naumoski and Simon Al-

lan made the score 3-0 on the hour

against Canberra Olympic would minutes from time, the game was the Eagles 3-0 ahead the points mark. Alex Weber responded within Tuggeranong, who wasted several presentable chances, hope but that was all but extinguished when Ross Edwards claimed City's fourth goal twelve minutes from time.

Elsewhere, goals from Jake Stein, Lukas Fuhrmann and David Baillie were enough for the Monaro Panthers to finish their campaign with a 3-1 win over Weston Creek. The Panthers rested several of their more senior players and their young replacements did the club proud with an excellent display. Jarrod Adams scored what proved to be the consolation goal for the State League One team.

ACT Results

White Eagles 3 (Andrew Sellas 3', Eoin Devaney 47', 76') Woden Valley 2 (Ben Pagett 77', Lachlan Nichols 84')

Belconnen United 2 (Tom Rogic 63', 67')

Canberra City 4 (Nikola Taneski 14', Misko Naumoski 48', Simon Allan 60', Ross Edwards 78') Tuggeranong United 1 (Alex Weber 61')

Pool B

Canberra FC 10 (Adam Spaleta 12, 60', 67', 84', Victor Yanes 45', 50', 69', 77', Josip Jadric 45+1', Ivan Pavlak 85') Cooma Tigers 2 (Serdan Bircan 21', 53')

Monaro Panthers 3 (Jake Stein 35' Lukas Fuhrmann 45', David Baillie 52') Weston Creek 1 (Jarrod Adams 40')

LEADING SCORERS

11 Adam SPALETA (Canberra FC) 9 Victor YANES (Canberra FC) 8 Elyja SHAH (Cooma Tigers) 6 Tom ROGIC (Belconnen United), Josip JADRIC (Canberra FC) 5 Dustin WELLS (Belconnen United), Nikola TANESKI (Canberra City), Michael SPALETA (Canberra FC), Stewart JONES (Monaro Panthers)

ACT Ladders

Pool A

1 Belconnen United5 4 0 1 20 8 +12 12 2 Canberra Olympic5 3 0 2 15 9 +6 9 3 Canberra City 5 3 0 2 11 9 +3 9 4 White Eagles 5 3 0 2 8 11 -3 9 5 Woden Valley 5 1 0 4 11 18 -7 3 6 Tuggeranong Utd5 1 0 4 6 16 -10 3

P W D L For Ag GD Pts

1 Canberra FC 5 5 0 0 44 3 +41 15 5 4 0 1 24 14 +10 12 2 Cooma Tigers 3 Monaro Panthers*5 2 0 3 13 13 0 6 4 Weston Creek 5 2 0 3 5 10 -5 6 5 Queanbeyan City*4 1 0 3 3 14 -11 3 6 Goulburn Strikers4 0 0 4 1 36 -35 0

Saxon Sports EPL Grand Final Night!!

It's finally arrived! The Saxon Sports English Premier League Grand Final Night! Who will

Preliminary Final 1 was first on tonight's agenda, Liverpool v Chelsea. Liverpool were the underdogs not only for tonight's game, but also for the whole season. They played extremely well throughout the season to make the finals, beat Manchester City in the Semi Finals to take on Chelsea tonight. But a determined Chelsea side stood in their way. Chelsea outplayed Liverpool throughout the whole game, defeating them 10-2. Chelsea is through to the Grand Final.

Preliminary Final 2 was up next,

Wolverhampton v Tottenham. Wolves struggled early on in the match and never really got back into it. A couple of rowdy Wolves supporters on the sidelines were trying to get stuck into Tottenham every step they took, this didn't bother the Tottenham boys as they went on to win 7-1 and advance to the Grand Final.

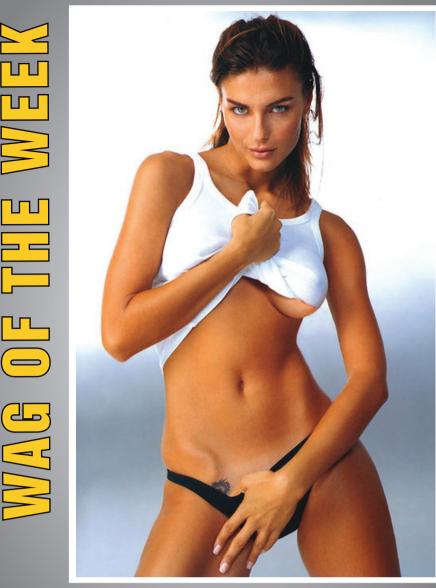
The playoff for 3rd and 4th was up next between Liverpool and Wolverhampton. After both teams getting convincingly beaten in the Preliminary Finals, they didn't want to lose two games in one night. Neither team had scored up until half time and it looked like the game was going into overtime at

0-0 when Wolverhampton kicked the winning goal with 4 minutes to go. Final result 1-0.

The Saxon Sports English Premier League Grand Final is finally upon us! Chelsea v Tottenham: two of the powerhouses of the Premier League this season. With the title and the prize money up for grabs, both teams were always going to give everything they had left in the tank to this final game. 30 minutes of high intensity soccer with the best of the best showing off their skills whenever they could. It was another low scoring game like the 3rd/4th playoff with the scores at 1-1 at half time. Chelsea kicked two quick goals midway through the second half and the scores were suddenly at 3-1. Tottenham scored one late but bring it back to 3-3 to force the game into overtime! Chelsea has taken out the title.

'Every player played within the spirit of the game in what could only be described as the match of the season', said Ash (match referee). Congratulations to Chelsea on Winning the Saxon Sports English Premier League. A big thanks goes out to all team who participated.





Martina Colombari Age: 35 Scored with Alessandro Costacurta (Halia)



Couch Potato Dept.



Monday April 11th FIFA Futbol Mundial 4:30 pm 11:30 pm The World Game

Wednesday 13 April **SBS ONE**

4.30am (aest) LIVE - Quarter-final 2nd leg Manchester United v Chelsea

6.45am (aest) DELAYED - Quarter-final 2nd leg Shakhtar Donetsk v Barcelona

11.00pm REPEAT - Highlights Quarter-final 2nd leg

Manchester United v Chelsea

Thursday 14 April

4.30am (aest) LIVE - Quarter-final 2nd leg -

6.45am (aest) DELAYED - Quarter-final 2nd leg -Tottenham v Real Madrid

SBS TWO

8.30pm REPEAT - highlights Quarter-final 2nd leg match

SPORTS

PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE

Tue Apr 12 Liverpool v Manchester City 4.55 am Sat Apr 16 West Brom v Chelsea

Sat Apr 16 Birmingham v Sunderland 11.55 pm Viewers Choice

Sat Apr 16 Blackpool v Wigan 11.55 pm Viewers Choice 11.55 pm Viewers Choice

Sat Apr 16 Everton v Blackburn

Sat Apr 16 West Ham v Aston Villa

Mon Apr 18 Arsenal v Liverpool

ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Wed Apr 13 Sydney FC v Kashima Antlers 7.55 pm LIVE

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Sat Apr 16 Norwich v Notts Forest Mon Apr 18 QPR v Derby

4.30 am LIVE 4.30 am LIVE

Viewers Choice

11.55 pm

12.55 am



Sydney FC are in Asian Champions League action again this week when they take on Japan's Kashima Antlers on Wednesday night

Monday 11th April 10:30 pm World Football News

Wednesday 13th April

04:00 am Bundesliga Matchday 29: Hamburg V Borussia Dortmund 06:00 am Serie A Matchday 32: Inter Milan V Chievo

Thursday 14th April

11:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights Matchday 29 12:00 pm Liverpool TV Liverpool V Manchester City 03:00 pm The Serie A Highlights Show Matchday 32

Saturday 16th April 05:00 am Serie A Matchday 32: Bologna V Napoli

Sunday 17th April 09:00 am Bundesliga Matchday 30: Hamburg V Hannover

SETANTA SPORTS

Monday 11th April 8:30am Serie A Lazio v Parma

10:15am Portuguese Liga Teams 1:45pm Bundesliga Monchenglad

bach v Cologne 3:30pm Serie A Palermo v Cesena 5:15pm Serie A Sampdoria v Lecce

Tuesday 12th April

2:30am Eredivisie PSV v Heerenveen 10:15am Bundesliga 1:45pm Serie A Cagliari v Brescia

Wednesday 13th April 2:55am SPL St Johnstone v

Crawley v Luton

5:15am Serie A Bari v Catania 9:30am Setanta Sports Cup Sligo v Shamrock Rovers 5:15pm Blue Square Premie

Thursday 14th April Aberdeen v Rangers LIVE 10:45am Copa Libertadores Estu-

diantes v Cruziero LIVE

4:25am Bundesliga Mainz v Monchengladbach LIVE 4:45pm League of Ireland Sham rock Rovers v Bohemians Delay 9:40pm Scottish Cup Motherwell v St Johnstone LIVE 11:55pm SPL

Rangers v St Mirren LIVE

Sunday 17th April 2:00am FA Cup Man Utd v Man City LIVE 4:40am Serie A

AC Milan v Sampdoria LIVE 6:45am Eredivisie Heracles v PSV Delay 11:00am Bundesliga Werder Bremen v Schalke Delay 9:40pm Scottish Cup Aberdeen v Celtic LIVE

Monday 18th April 12:55am FA Cup Stoke v Bolton LIVE 4:40am Serie A Napoli v Udinese LIVE 9:15am Serie A Parma v Inter Delay 11:00am Serie A Chievo v Bologna Delay 12:45pm Serie A



Town Show Channel 31 **Every Tuesday** 7pm

Every Wed Extra Time The Green Magazine

Gully Football Every Saturday **Every Tuesday** 10.30am

Radio Stars

Global Football Show Jacob Kagi and Ian Hooper discuss local, national and international football every Thursday night from 7.30-9pm on WA's SportFM 91.3.

The Four Diegos Monday to Thursday 11pm SEN

5-A-SIDE SOCCER **NEW SEASON STARTS SOON!** MEN'S I LADIES I MIXED I JUNIORS

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A Point Each For Aussie Clubs

By David Manuca

MELBOURNE managed to pick-up their first point in the 2011 Asian Champions League after a 1-1 draw against Tianjin Teda in China last Tuesday night.

Tianjin captain Marko Zoric put his side ahead 19 minutes in before Victory's ex-captain Kevin Muscat grabbed a goal from a corner kick to earn Melbourne their first points in the competition this year.

Melbourne made four changes to the squad that lost to Jeju 2-1 in Matchday Two, including dropping Michael Petkovic for Tando

It was a game of two halves as the home side dominated the first period with Melbourne having the better of the second.

One of Melbourne's biggest problems so far in this years ACL has been defending from set-pieces and it again proved their downfall with Zoric heading home a corner just 20 minutes in.

Victory failed to clear the ball after a flick-on at the near post and it fell to Zoric who headed the ball from right in-front after goalkeeper Tando Velaphi saved his initial attempt.

Melbourne were lucky not to be two-nil down going into the break after Zhang Xiaobin's volley smashed against the crossbar.

Mehmet Durakovic brought on youngster Robbie Kruse for the largely in-affective Tom Pondeljak at half-time and it seemed to work well as Melbourne came out the break the better of the two

Just six minutes into the second half and Victory found themselves level thanks to their alltime top scorer in the ACL, Kevin Muscat.

Carlos Hernandez whipped in a

Kevin Muscat at the near post who had the easy task of putting the ball into the back of the net. Victory had a magnificent chance to get in front when Carlos Hernandez unleashed Robbie Kruse one-on-one with the Tianjin goalkeeper but the Socceroo went the wrong way crashing into two de-

fenders, with Archie Thompson's

follow-up effort blocked.

Tianjin were reduced to 10men in the 74th minute when the goal scorer Marko Zoric flew in to Hernandez from behind with studs showing earning himself a straight red card.

Both sides pressed for a late winner but neither could find the back of the net with the points be-

Victory are still winless in eight away games in the Champions League picking up only their second ever point outside Australia, and their first in the 2011 cam-

Tianjin are still un-defeated and sit atop of Group E with seven points followed by Jeju United on six points, Gamba on three points and Melbourne are last with just the single point.

Durakovic thought Melbourne deserved the three points and that they can still get through to the Round of 16 despite being five points behind second placed Jeju. 'I am disappointed that we didn't get the three points," Durakovic told Sportal. "We played better than Tianjin and we had chances

"We had two or three more chances. Unfortunately, we failed convert any of them." "We are still bullish on qualifica-

tion. We still have chances." Sydney FC were held to a 1-1 draw by a frustrating Shanghai Shenua side in Sydney on



Bloody oath, mate: Sydney FC's Bruno Cazarine pleads his innocence to a bloodied Salmeron Luis Angel of China's Shanghai Shenhua. Photo: GEOFF JONES

Wednesday night.

A deflected strike from Riascos gave Shanghai an early lead before Nick Carle equalized for the Sky Blues just six minutes later. It was a game Sydney needed to win but they found the match extremely frustrating in the second half when Shanghai players repeatedly dropped to the ground without even being challenged. Riascos opened the scoring in the

6th minute when his strike from outside the area deflected off a Sydney player leaving Liam Reddy stranded. Six minutes after that Nick Carle brought Sydney back level with

a low shot that scraped past the Shanghai goalkeeper Shengjiong

Shanghai had a good opportunity to go back in-front when midfielder Renliang Feng hit the crossbar on 38 minutes.

Sydney were poor in the second half as they game became very stale with Bruno Cazarine having the best chance for the Sky Blues.

Sydney manager Vitezlav Lavicka admitted Sydney failed that cutting edge to grab that second

"Most of game we kept possession but we didn't have the quality enough in attacking third," Lavicka told Sportal.

"We did plenty of crossing but there wasn't good enough quality to penetrate them and they blocked many strike attempts as

"We created chances but we expected more than one point from this game."

"It's frustrating ... we didn't score the second goal so we can't

be satisfied."

Suwon Bluewings still sit top of Group H on five points, followed by Kashima, Sydney and Shanghai all on two points. Matchday 4 of the 2011 Asian

Champions League sees Melbourne Victory host Tianjin Teda at Etihad Stadium on April 20. The other match in that group will see Gamba Osaka host Jeju United.

Sydney FC play Kashima Antlers in Sydney on Wednesday night in the match that was meant to be played a month ago but was postponed due to the Japanese earthquake and tsunami.

Sydney then travel to China to take on Shanghai Shenua on April 19. The other game in that group sees Kashima Antlers host Suwon Bluewings.

Group A 1 SEPAHAN (IRN) 2 AL HILAL (KSA) 3 AL GHARAFA (QAT) 4 AL JAZIRA (UAE)

AL SADD v AL NASSR 1 – 0 ESTEGHLAL v PAKHTAKOR 4 – 2

2 BUNYODKOR (UZB) 3 PIROOZI ATHLETIC (IRN) 4 AL WAHDA (UAE)

BUNYODKOR v PIROOZI ATHLETIC 0 – 0 AL WAHDA v AL ITTIHAD 0 – 3

PWDLFAGDPts

AL RAYYAN v ZOBAHAN 1 – 3 AL SHABAB v EMIRATES 4 – 1

Group E 1 TIANJIN TEDA (CHN)

TIANJIN TEDA v MELBOURNE VICTORY 1 – 1

PWDLFAGDPts

HANGZHOU GREENTOWN v AL AIN 0 -0 NAGOYA GRAMPUS v FC SEOUL 1 -1

3 SHANDONG LUNENG (CHN) 3 1 1 4 AREMA MALANG (IDN) 3 0 1 I BLUEWINGS (KOR) 3 1 2 0 5 1 4 5 2 KASHIMA ANTLERS (JPN) 2 0 2 0 1 1 0 2

3 SYDNEY FC (AUS) 2 0 2 0 1 1 0 2 4 SHANGHAI SHENHUA (CHN) 3 0 2 1 1 5 -4 2 SUWON BLUEWINGS v KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 – 1 SYDNEY FC v SHANGHAI SHENHUA 1-1

Next Match

Match Day 6

Sydney FC

Kashima Antlers (Japan) Wednesday 13 April KO 8pm (AEDT) Sydney Football Stadium

broadcast on Fox Sports



Schalke Stun Holders Inter Milan

By Matthew Galea

Eight teams played in the first legs of this seasons Champions League as the elite club competition rapidly approaches it's finale in London.

A massive 18 goals were scored over the four games played mid-

On the first night of action. Schalke provided the shock of the round, if not the tournament, when they thrashed reigning champions Internazionale 5-2.

The unexpected result, in a match Inter were expected to win comfortably, is another major blow for the Italian and European champions, after suffering defeat in what might have been a title clinching Milan derby, and has cast further doubts over the future of manager, Leonardo.

The game started brightly for Inter, when Dejan Stankovic scored perhaps the goal of the season.

A bizarre diving header clearance from goalkeeper Neur set Stankovic up nicely for his brilliantly accurate volley from within the half way circle to put the home side 1-0 up.

It was an isolated moment of brilliance in an otherwise disap-

pointing display. After Joel Matip's 17th minute

equalizer, it was Inter in the lead again when Diego Milito scored in the 34th minute. By the 50th minute, Inter found themselves losing when Raul slotted home in the 53rd minute, the first of a second half performances that saw Schalke add another two away

The result means that Inter will travel to Germany facing a huge three goal deficit, compounded further by the fact that Schalke scored five away goals, surely spelling the end of their reign as European champions.

Thrashings were the theme of the week it seemed though, as Inter were far from the only team to essentially be knocked out after the first leg. Tottenham were routed after the 15th minute sending off of Peter Crouch. Madrid completely dominated the game, finishing 72% of possession, and were already 1-0 up, courtesy of an Emmanuel Adebayor header, when Peter Crouch got himself sent off for a second bookable

What followed was nothing short of an onslaught. Away to one of the greatest sides in European football, Tottenham were completely found out. Real Madrid did not score again in the first half, but the floodgates opened in the second. 10 minutes into the second half, Adebayor had doubled Madrid's win.

Argentinean winger Di Maria added to the woes of the Hotspurs when he unleashed a terrific curling shot into the top corner in the 72nd minute, before Cristiano Ronaldo completed the rout late in the game to effectively knock Spurs out of the Champions League.

The second night of Champions League football wasn't too much different in Barcelona. Shakhtar deserve credit for their continuous attacking intent and really, had they been able to hit the target, they might have just kept their hopes alive before a home

Barcelona proved, again, far too good for their opposition. Andres Iniesta opened Barcelona's account for the night in only the 2nd minute, beating the Shakhtar goalkeeper at the near post. Shakhtar responded strongly and could have been 2-1 up but for some fatal profligacy in front of goal. Luiz Adriano and Willian both should have scored, and had they done so, this tie may just have stayed alive for the second

As it happened though, Barcelona finished the match 5-1 win-



Schalke's Raul scores his 70th goal in Champions League football against defending champs Inter Milan during their amazing quarter final match.

ners, completely overrunning a disciplined display, peppered and Xavi all scoring goals.

In London, Chelsea suffered a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Manchester United, leaving this tie poised on a knife's edge ahead of the second leg at Old Trafford on Wednesday morning.

Wayne Rooney finished off a brilliant move which featured a pin point cross field ball from Michael Carrick and a sublime touch and explosion of pace from Ryan Giggs, to seal an all-important win away from home.

Manchester United produced

their spirited, but inferior, oppo- with moments of brilliance and nents with Alves Pique Keita probably deserve to take a lead into the second leg, mainly due to the incredible wastefulness of the likes of Didier Drogba and the continuously impotent 50 million pound man, Fernando Torres. Chelsea can consider themselves

unlucky to not have been awarded a penalty in the dying stages, when Ramires was brought down by Patrice Evra, a point not missed by Carlo Ancellotti and John Terry in their post-match comments.

Thankfully for them, their task is unchanged. Even if they had got-

UCL Details

Quarter-Finals

Real Madrid 4-0 Tottenham Hotspur FC Inter Milano 2-5 FC Schalke 04

Chelsea FC 0-1 Manchester United FC FC Barcelona 5-1 FC Shakhtar Donetsk

Return legs to be played on April 12th

ten their penalty, Chelsea would still have to ensure they beat Manchester United to progress to the semifinals, a fact they can take some relief from.

An exciting week of Champions League football may be followed up by a lackluster week of second legs, with almost every tie already decided.

Old Trafford will be the only venue providing any contest of true meaning, unless any of Shakhtar, Tottenham or Internazionale can overturn some massive deficits early in the second leg.

The unlikelihood of any such event seems to indicate that next week will be one of confirmation than surprises, but if the quality of football on display is anything like it was this week, we could be in for quite a treat.



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FULL NAME: Tome Racunica BIRTHPLACE: Sibenik, Dalmatia BIRTH DATE: 12.08.81 HEIGHT. 75 bm WEIGHT: 75 kg **MARRIED: Yes** CAR: Dodge Nitro
NICKNAME: None
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Berwick Kings, Noble Park, Granbourne REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: None CHILDHOOD FOOTBALLHEROR Dragan Stofkovile FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Lufts Suarez FAVOURITE HALPLAYER Archite Thompson (Victory) FAYOURINE FORMERSOOGEROOR Stan Lazaridis FAVOURITE GURRENT SOCCEROOR MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER:
Vs Doncaster Rovers, winning promotion to
Div1 on the last day of the season.
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Liverpoolys AC Milan @ Istanbul MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED VS Wester Suburbs '00 or '01, picked the ball up deep in our own half and went for a run and finished with aplomb. EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Italia 90 (Yugys Spain) FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Own goal I scored playing for Drina vs Fitzroy, misclearance from 30 metres that ended in the top corner, wasn't funny then FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: That I was on my way to Lazio for a trial. BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENTA
Not getting signed by Lazio II
WORST INUURYA Dislocated shoulder and broken/dislocated ankle MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT:
Dario Adamovic (No nonsense defender)
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND:
Epping Stadium
SUPERSTITIONS: None
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Chicken
Sandwich and plenty of liquid. Not a big eater
before games. WHAT AREYOUR STRENGTHS: WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Kryptonite FAVOURITE TEAMWHEN GROWING UP: Red Star Belgrade FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: AFL
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON:
Chris Judd FAVOURITE FOODS: Pepperoni Pizza and any kind of chicken FAVOURITE/ACTOR/ACTRESS: Will Smith & Elizabeth Hurley HOBBIES: Table Tennis FAYOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT Shangrille, Fiji FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOTH None IDEAL DATE: Dinner followed by a movie FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: South Park, Family Guy, American Dadland The Simpsons
FAVOURITE MUSICE Rock/Pop FAVOURITE FILM: Apocalypto LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER My Dad, Les Murray and SBS on Saturday BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Terrible state of some grounds and Referees that think they are bigger then the game. FOOTBALL AMBITION: Get the best out if myself and stay fit
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?:
Novak Djokovic/ Christiano Ronaldo
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S VPL:



Monday 11th April 2011

Springvale White Eagles

With Adam North in the UK

Once again a certain Mr Wayne Rooney has found his way into the newspapers due to his bad behaviour. This time, like an ill-disciplined school kid, he has been told off for swearing. What a naughty boy he is.

Just in case you missed it, the reason that Wayne Rooney has been thrust into the spotlight again for reasons other than his footballing skills is that after scoring the third goal of his hat-trick against West Ham Wazza proceeded to use some rather foul language, aimed directly at a television camera.

Before getting into the more intricate details of the United frontman's penalty for this offense I think it's important to mention what a real shame it is that this has created as much furore as it has done. In one tabloid paper there were three separate opinion articles concerning Rooney's behaviour in one day, as well as several letters from readers on the matter. The shame is that all of this talk has really distracted everyone away from how good Rooney was against West Ham, and how important his contribution could prove to be come the end of the season.

For long periods in the game against West Ham the Red Devils looked inept, toothless and undisciplined. Rooney near single-handedly turned that around with his passion, aggression, determination and great quality. He changed what looked like being a United defeat into a victory, which at least in my opinion has now guaranteed the Manchester club the league title. No wonder he got so excited by it all.

Personally, I have no problem with his swearing in the slightest. As Rooney himself suggested, it's not the first time that someone has sworn on the football pitch, and it won't be the last. I do concede that shouting directly at the camera is not a smart thing to do, but again as Rooney pointed out he apologised straight away.

However in the same way that I have no problem with the swearing, I also have no problem with the punishment that has been dished out. Rooney has received a two-match ban from the FA, meaning that he will miss Saturday's clash with Fulham along with the FA Cup Semi-Final against rivals Manchester City.

Really the Fulham game is no bother, as Fulham have more chance of having a statue of Michael Jackson erected outside their stadium than of getting anything at Old Trafford.

Missing the semi-final though is a crushing blow for both Rooney and United. Every player should want to play in big games, especially when they are at Wembley, and especially when it's going to be an epic grudge match against your city rivals. As for United, they'll be missing their best player, who not only possesses the kind of quality they'll need to unlock the stubborn City defence, but also the passion and determination to really battle against what should be a strong physical challenge. Luckily, United do have replacements in Berbatov and Hernandez who should give them enough to see off those playing for the blue side of Manchester.

In regards to whole swearing incident, what has really bothered me is the reaction to it. Almost every Premier League manager has had their say, as have many of the current and indeed former United players. In this instance Rooney himself has dealt with the matter fairly admirably. He released a statement which expressed his disappointment at the decision and with the fact that he'll be missing the semi-final, but also said "I have to accept that what's happened has happened and move on from here. That's what I intend to do." To me at least that sounds like an appropriate response.

Unlike what some others have been saying. Unsurprisingly, it's Sir Alex who has stoked the most flames against the FA in support of his player. Ferguson, who himself received a five match touchline ban earlier this year, has once again suggested that his team and his players are being unfairly treated, and has produced comments such as "Fair is a word . . . I don't know if you can use that word 'fair' any longer." Ferguson has also suggested that Lee Mason, the match referee who suggested that had he seen and heard Rooney's outburst he would have sent him off, had been severely pressured into saying what he did, claiming "I feel really sorry for the lad, because

Swearing: Leaving a bad taste in your mouth



Choice of the new generation? Rooney lets it rip to zillions of viewers around the world.

he's put himself in a terrible position. I think obviously he was put under pressure, there's no doubt about that." He also suggested that Mason's career may never be the same again.

Once again it seems that Ferguson is putting the FA under both strict scrutiny as well as a great deal of pressure. If Ferguson is to be believed, it is United who are always hard done by when it comes to refereeing decisions and FA punishments. That's interesting to think about, as the public opinion in England is pretty much the opposite. Just ask Chelsea fans, who believe that they should have had a late penalty against United in their Champions League clash.

Another completely unbiased source, Rio Ferdinand, also offered his opinion, which may have been even more ridiculous than Ferguson's. Although he didn't directly say it, he implied that we should all cherish the ground Rooney walks on, and maybe he should be given a little leeway in regards to punishments imposed upon him.

And former United captain Gary Neville has also thrown in

his two cents, by suggesting that the ruling is both unfair and inconsistent. Incidentally, Gary has just been announced as a new pundit for Sky television in England, which may prove to be one of the worst decisions since letting John Barnes present Italian football over here.

Getting back to the subject in hand, the problem that is arising, and one which has been evident for several years, is the complete lack of respect that managers and players have for the governing body of English football. Now it is undoubtedly true that the FA have on several occasions shown themselves to be somewhat inept and reactionary, but they still should not be being questioned by current players and managers.

Before Ferguson starts complaining that I'm picking on him, I should state that this isn't a United bashing; the lack of respect is rife throughout all the English leagues. It's just that, as a manager who is more respected than anyone else in English football, Ferguson should be a leading light in deferring to decisions made by the law makers in our country. The FA's deci-

sions should be unquestionable; if someone disagrees they can appeal, as Rooney did, and that it completely fine. What you cannot do is come out in the media, as Ferguson has done on numerous occasions, and accuse both individual officials and also governing bodies of acting unfairly and with bias. By doing this he puts unfair pressure on decisions both for and against his club, and it calls into question the whole integrity of the system.

Many people feel that Ferguson has a great deal of sway with the FA; some have said that he has his own list of referees that he lets officiate his games. Obviously that's untrue, but the point is that for someone who does unquestionably have some influence, Ferguson should be accepting decisions made against him, even if ultimately they are wrong.

As I pointed out, the FA are a bit of a joke at times, with no distinguishable spokesperson or figurehead, and that needs to change. But if they make a judgement then they do not need to be answerable to individual mangers or players. Of course,

they need to be monitored just as a Prime Minister or a President does, but as long as they act fairly and without bias, they should be allowed to get on with the job of running football in our country.

Ultimately the decision to ban Rooney for two games is questionable. Rooney's apology and begrudging acceptance is nice to see, I just wish his manager could also take the higher ground. What this incident has shown is that despite several attempts at generating some, there still is very little respect for the FA and for football officials. Just as things like homophobia and racism has no place in our beloved game, the same can be said for the disrespect shown to those in charge. This has to change, and people like Rooney and Ferguson are the kind of influential figures that should be making it happen. Unfortunately I really can't see there being any changes anytime soon, and I really worry that it could make the FA even more of a shambles than they already are. Honestly it makes me so upset I could just swear.



LONDON CALLING With Leroy Robinson in the UK

A list of the candidates for this year's PFA player of the year was leaked nearly a week before it was due to be released. On that list were Charlie Adam (Blackpool FC), Gareth Bale (Tottenham Hotspur), Samir Nasri (Arsenal), Scott Parker (West Ham United), Carlos Tevez (Manchester City) and Nemanja Vidic (Manchester United). The official list also had a seventh name - Rafael van der Vaart (Tottenham Hotspur).

While these are all perfectly good candidates it does beg the question: what are the credentials required to be nominated for such an award? Remember, this award is dished out by the players so that should tell you something. How many games do players actually watch and are they looking at the game objectively or subjectively?

Gareth Bale is the bookmakers' favourite to win. There is no doubt Gareth Bale skinned Inter Milan twice and looked pretty good in doing so. However, this is a microcosm of an injury-interrupted season and a season in which he hasn't lived up to the huge billing he was given at the start. He has been hyped way beyond his ability and at times has ineffective. But the question was what are the credentials required to be nominated for such an award?

For a start, surely the candidate should be the best player on his team? For instance, it could be argued that Michael Dawson has had a far more consistent season than Bale, one that will hopefully be rewarded by the fans of Spurs when they choose their player of the year. I don't subscribe to the notion that because Blackpool and West Ham are rubbish that Scott Parker and Charlie Adam shouldn't be considered.

Adam has been superb this season but I don't think Parker should be there because other central midfield players, like Joey Barton, have been better than him this.

Luis Nani and Dimitar Berbatov have had excellent seasons but the latter scores in bunches and is likely to go AWOL in some games and, though Nani would be a worthy candidate, his peers are probably less inclined to vote for a player who is liable to feign injury at the mere thought of being tackled. Vidic has been their rock and, in a season when many of United's first choice defenders have gone down injured, has rightly been nominated.

Overall, the award should go to the player who has performed consistently and whose absence would affect his team the most. Step forward Carlos Tevez of Manchester City. We've seen them sans Carlos, stumbling and bumbling like a blind man in the desert, and it hasn't been pretty. They've bought Dzeko and Balotelli and don't forget they have Santa Cruz, Bellamy and Adebayor knocking around at other clubs on loan, and yet it is Tevez who remains the talisman when others have faded away.

He is by far the most important player on an expensively assembled team and had been their best player this season.

As mentioned before, the favourite is Gareth Bale who, apart from a few high profile games, has failed to perform consistently.

If awards are given for best performance in a UCL game then he will win. Commonsense dictates that anyone but Bale should win, yet since when have players been noted for such a trait?

The Chanting Fan: An endangered Species?

If some people had their way fans would sing songs from The Sound of Music, and chanting would be more like those old fashioned musicals you were made to watch as a child, full of sweetness and light.

Certainly, swear words would be off limits. Such people forget that football, by its very tribal and secular nature, is a mirror of society and, as such, there will always be division between certain sets of fans, people, countries, religions and whatever.

During the UCL game in Madrid, there were some chants from Spurs fans about ex-Arsenal player Emmanuel Adebayor that had Lord Ouseley, Chairman of Kick It Out, a body aimed at tackling racism within the game, bleating to the press. "Your dad washes elephants, your mum's a whore," were part of the song and it is the reference to washing elephants that had Ouseley in a

"It's not racist but it is abusive and it has racial undertones to it," Lord Ouseley told BBC Radio 5 live. "Clearly, Adebayor and his colleagues playing for Real Madrid found it offensive. If you asked Spurs's black players if it was something they would find inoffensive if it was sung about them, I think you wouldn't find a different result...If they sing it next week in the return game, there'll be problems. Because I'm sure the black fans of Spurs are not going to be singing that song."

Don't you just love how he speaks for black players and fans as if they have a collective brain? What he says may well be true but there may also be white fans that refuse to sing about Adebayor. It's called exercising free will.

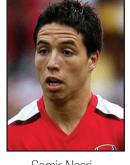
To my knowledge Adebayor's mum isn't a whore and his dad doesn't wash elephants. So what's the problem? The problem is it is now fashionable to suggest that any chant directed toward a black player is racist in tone. Not that there is more an inference in the words than Lord Ouseley uses than an accusation.

Six of the Be





Scott Parker



Samir Nasri







Nemanja Vidic

Gareth Bale



Adebayor himself was offended by the chanting, as some people in his situation might well be. But that's just tough. The idea though that because he, or Real Madrid players, are offended by the chant means it should be up for discussion is ludicrous. As much as Adebayor has the right to be offended the fans have the right to offend.

Lord Ouseley also said: "We know that Football Against Racism in Europe (Fare), which is the European version of the Kick It Out campaign, are taking up the matter with UEFA. So we wait and see.'

Lord Ouseley added: "Clubs say, 'We don't tolerate such things', but yet it's still happening. No-one is saying this song is overtly racist. But, clearly it is offensive and it's about setting standards.

"If we're not careful, if we relax, then these things become prevalent again.

The problem with the stance of the Lord Ouseley's of this world is that, if you take things to their natural conclusion, it means any chant that is offensive should invariably be off limits. And who is to decide what is offensive? Players? Clubs? Lord Ouseley and his chums of course!

This means no chanting about John Terry cheating on his wife, no chanting about Frank Lampard being fat and definitely no chanting about Manuel Almunia being shit, especially if they're

In fact, stadiums could well become no chanting zones and no swearing zones if such political figures had their way. Whereas I am appalled at the vitriol Spurs fans direct towards Arsene Wenger, this is different. That abuse is directed as a personal accusation and is libellous in nature. I would feel totally different about the Adebayor incidents if, for example, the chants alleged he had done nefarious things with children.

So there you have it. To please

the PC brigade we should all

sing "How do you solve a problem like Maria". Of course this type of censorship cannot work. History has told us that there is only so much

control the authorities can have over events involving huge crowds of people. Drawing attention to such things is one thing but to try and punish a club because people might be offended by chanting is like clos-

tional Party. People have the right to offend and it is those who want to curtail this right which offend me the most.

ing a pub because the proprietor

is a member of the British Na-

The bottom line is normal rules do not apply to football crowds. Politicians can try and apply the same standards of conduct to football fans as they do society at large but it will not work. It didn't work in Ancient Rome and it won't work at White Hart

No Swearing Zones: Coming to an EPL Ground Near

Wayne Rooney was charged and camera. Ok, he did it twice and it was rather foolish. To be fair the FA had no choice but to charge him given the vitriol directed towards the United forward by the media.

The real problem was that the whole 'will they won't they' saga that followed his transgression and the confusion about whether he was to be charged or not.

To be honest these sorts of disciplinary issues should have been sorted out a long time ago.

That doesn't mean the FA needs

to have a specific rule for players swearing into the camera. But for too long swearing on the field has been tolerated and, in particular, swearing at officials.

How often have we seen players like, for instance, Wayne Rooney and Craig Bellamy tell a referee to fuck off? No wonder Rooney and United though at quick generic apology on the United website would suffice.

I've heard it said that players shouldn't be subject to abuse when playing because they are just doing their jobs. What about referees? Don't they count?

I wouldn't want to see the field of play become a no swearing zone, but the FA needs to implement a respect campaign that allows players to argue decisions but doesn't tolerate so called foul and abusive language towards an official who is, after all, just doing a job?

On the subject of swearing, one would assume that the next player caught swearing on camera will be subject to the same treatment, regardless of the level of publicity the indiscretion gets in the media.

That is, of course, unless that players is again Wayne Rooney.

Second is Good Enough for Arsene

Once again Arsene Wenger has munition to criticise his lack of success in recent years. A full month or so after declaring they can win four trophies the Arsenal tactician has more words of wisdom.

"We have done well for our age as we are second in the league. Is that a disaster for you? There are teams who invest 10 times more than us, one player cost more than the whole team and they are behind us. I don't understand the way people think," he said at a press conference on Friday before Sunday's game with Black-

Such a club is Chelsea who, having spent £70m on David Luiz and Fernando Torres, are having a poor season. The other is Manchester City, a rag bag of highly paid individuals. Wenger is right about both teams, but as usual it's an attempt to mask his record at Arsenal over the last six years and shift focus away from his team's implosion.

He's right, second in the league isn't a disaster, but it isn't something to pat yourself on the back about either. Was finishing second in the Carling Cup a success?

Given that Arsenal are supposed to be a big cub and assuming that big club status means winning things, then it's hard to understand Wenger's position. I'm hoping his fighting talk he's angry that his team continually falters during the run in to a season. Though it is understandable that he's trying to apply some context to the Arsenal's situation, his attitude perhaps is indicative of why SAF will walk away with an EPL crown this season despite having an inferior squad to Wenger. The question is how long can Arsene live off the fading goodwill of the fans and his past success?

"Saying I fell ill be4 the game is bullshit. I fell ill on Sunday morning where the med team put me on anti botics [sic], but only got worse b4 tues."

"Believe me this is 1 game I did no wnt to miss and still devo [devastated] now!!!! but will not be made a scapegoat saying they only knew jus b4 KO."

Aaron Lennon, after his withdrawal during the warm-up and in the aftermath of Spurs being schooled 4-0 against Real Ma-

Man Utd win to open up 10-point lead





Alex Luttrell

Manchester United extended their lead at the top of the English Premier League to 10 points with a comfortable 2-0 home victory over Fulham.

Despite Wayne Rooney being banned for his foul-mouthed rant at West Ham last week, there was no stopping the Red Devils as they secured their 15th win in 16 league games at their Old Trafford home.

Dimitar Berbatov and Antonio Valencia scored first-half goals as United moved further clear of nearest rivals Arsenal, although the Gunners have two games in hand.

Former United favourite Mark Hughes brought his Fulham side to Old Trafford knowing that they are practically safe from relegation and was intent on testing his old side rather than sitting back.

The Cottagers started brightly with Tomasz Kuszczak called into action twice in the opening five minutes when Bobby Zamora and then Moussa Dembele cut in from the right flank to hit low drives that had the Polish goalkeeper at full stretch.

United took the lead in controversial circumstances in the 12th minute when Nani waltzed past three defenders and fed Anderson, who released Berbatov standing in an offside position.

But the Bulgarian made no mistake from his good fortune clipping his shot into the corner of the net on the angle.

United's second finally came on the half-hour mark, when Nani beat Mark Schwarzer to Patrice Evra's long ball, cut inside and when his chipped effort was headed off the line by Chris Baird, Valencia followed up to nod home from close

Bundesliga

Alex Milic

Star respectively.

Borussia Dortmund struck a late equaliser in their 1-1 draw at Hamburg, while Schalke's good week continued in Saturday's Bundesliga action.

Jakub Blaszczykowski's goal two minutes into injury time secured an all-important point for the league leaders, leaving Juergen Klopp's

Vojvodina and Partizan will battle

for the Serbian Cup following ag-

gregate wins over Spartak and Red

Vojvodina came into the second leg

at home with a 2:1 advantage follow-

ing the first leg and it was going to be

very hard for Sloboda to mount a seri-

ous challenge. Vojvodina secured the

two leg victory and passage into the

At the 'Marakana" Stadium in Bel-

grade in front of 41,000 plus fans, it

was a different story with everything

still to play for Red Star dominated

Partizan but 1:0 was not enough as

the 'black and whites' came into the

match with a 2:0 advantage from the

first leg. Despite that Red Star should

final with a 1:0 win in Novi Sad.



Manchester United create a 10-point lead at the top of the Premier League as they brush aside Fulham 2-0 at Old Trafford.

side destined to win their first league title since 2001-02 despite an unconvincing run of form since the German winter break.

Just five days after their shock 5-2 Champions League victory at Inter Milan on Tuesday, Schalke maintained their winning form with a 1-0 home triumph over Wolfsburg.

Jurado's 76th minute goal decided the contest, as Wolfsburg's winless run extended to five, with the defeat leaving the club third-bottom on the table.

Hannover climbed to third with a 2-0 home victory over Mainz, courtesy of goals to Didier Ya Konan and Sergio Pinto.

Ya Konan's strike was his 13th for the season and his third in five matches as Mirko Slomka's side took advantage of Bayern Munich's slip-up at Nuremberg, as the two sides played out a 1-1 draw.

Bayern looked on track for a fourth consecutive Bundesliga victory when Thomas Mueller converted Arjen Robben's assist after five minutes.

Goals from Papiss Demba Cisse and Heiko Butscher in the second half saw Freiburg come from behind to defeat Hoffenheim 3-2 at the badenova-Stadion.

Julian Schuster put Freiburg in front after 23 minutes but goals to Vedad Ibisevic and Ryan Babel, his first for the club since joining from Liverpool, put the visitors in front at the break.

But Freiburg responded impressively, with Cisse scoring his 20th

league goal of the season from the spot before Ibisevic grabbed the winner with 12 minutes remaining. Srdjan Lakic scored a brace to help Kaiserslautern to their third win in four, with a 4-2 away triumph over Stuttgart improving their survival chances in the German top flight.

Serie A

Inter Milan moved back up to second in the Serie A with a testing 2-0 win over Chievo, while Roma inflicted a second straight loss on Udinese.

Inter were made to work hard for their win at the San Siro, with Chievo's resolute defence holding out the champions for more than an hour.

The deadlock was finally broken when Argentine Esteban Cambiasso found the back of the net after 66 minutes, after good build-up work from Maicon.

And the Brazilian joined his South American counterpart on the scoresheet when he made sure of the result with his finish six minutes from time.

The victory ensured coach Leonardo, who replaced Rafael Benitez mid-season, maintained his unbeaten record at home this season.

At the Stadio Communale Friuli, Francesco Totti was at his best as his Roma side closed to within three points of Udinese, who sit fourth and occupy a Champions League qualifying place, with a 2-1

The legendary forward opened the scoring from the spot after 57

minutes and his goal looked to have given Vincenzo Montella's side a valuable away win.

But with just three minutes remaining, Antonio Di Natale bagged his 26th league goal of the season to spark wild celebrations among the home fans.

Those celebrations proved to be premature though, as Totti converted John Arne Riise's assist in the fourth minute of stoppage time to deliver his side a hard-fought victory.

SPL

Celtic increased their lead at the top of the Scottish Premier League to five points on Saturday with a 1-0 win over St Mirren at Parkhead.

Kris Commons scored the only goal of the game with 12 minutes remaining to hand the Celts full points, after they struggled to break down a resolute Saints defence.

The win moves Celtic five points

clear of second-placed Rangers
- who play Hamilton on Sunday
- while St Mirren remain second
from the bottom.

Fourth-placed Dundee United continued their good run of form with a 2-0 win over St Johnstone at Tannadice, moving five points clear of Kilmarnock in the race for the final Europa League qualifying berth.

A week after his side beat Rangers 3-2 at Ibrox, Johnny Russell gave the hosts the lead on the stroke of half-time, before David Robertson made sure of the result five minutes from the end.

Results

Barclays Premier League Blackburn 1-1 Birmingham Bolton 3-0 West Ham Chelsea 1-0 Wigan Man Utd 2-0 Fulham Sunderland 2-3 West Brom Tottenham 3-2 Stoke Wolverhampton 0-3 Everton

Npower Championship Barnsley 4-2 Bristol City Derby 2-2 Coventry Doncaster 1-3 Cardiff Ipswich 2-1 Crystal Palace Leicester 4-0 Burnley Millwall 3-2 Leeds Nott'm Forest 3-4 Reading Portsmouth 1-1 Preston Scunthorpe 4-1 QPR Sheff Utd 1-2 Middlesbrough Swansea 3-0 Norwich Watford 1-2 Hull

Npower League One

Bournemouth 1-2 Tranmere Brentford 0-1 Swindon Brighton 2-0 Sheff Wed Bristol Rovers 0-2 Exeter Colchester 1-0 Rochdale Dag & Red 3-1 Notts County Hartlepool 3-1 Yeovil Huddersfield 1-1 Peterborough Leyton Orient 0-2 Southampton MK Dons 3-2 Carlisle Oldham 0-0 Charlton Plymouth 2-0 Walsall

Npower League Two
Aldershot 3-0 Shrewsbury
Barnet 2-1 Crewe
Bradford 0-3 Torquay
Cheltenham 1-1 Rotherham
Hereford 3-0 Chesterfield
Lincoln City 0-4 Gillingham
Morecambe 2-1 Burton Albion
Northampton 2-4 Bury
Oxford Utd 2-2 Wycombe
Port Vale 1-1 Southend
Stockport 2-2 Stevenage

Clydesdale Bank Premier League Aberdeen 0-1 Hibernian

Celtic 1-0 St Mirren
Dundee Utd 2-0 St Johnstone
Hearts 0-0 Motherwell
Kilmarnock 1-1 Inverness CT

Blue Square Bet Premier Barrow 5-0 Kettering

Cambridge Utd 1-2 AFC Wimbledon
Darlington 3-1 Bath City
Eastbourne Boro 0-6 Fleetwood Town
Forest Green 1-0 Altrincham
Gateshead 2-0 Histon
Grimsby 3-3 Kidderminster
Hayes & Yeading 4-0 Mansfield
Luton 6-0 Southport
Rushden & D'mnds 2-2 Wrexham
Tamworth 0-3 Crawley Town
(Crawley Town are champions)
York 2-1 Newport County

Scottish First Division
Falkirk 2-3 Partick Thistle
Raith Rovers 2-2 Cowdenbeath

TELY

	P	GD	Pts
//an Utd	32	38	69
krsenal	30	30	59
Chelsea	31	30	58
Man City	31	23	56
ottenham	31	8	53
.iverpool	31	4	45
Everton	32	4	44
Bolton	32	3	43
Newcastle	31	2	39
West Brom	32	-13	39
Fulham	32	1	38
Stoke	32	-3	38
Sunderland	32	-10	38
Blackburn	32	-12	35
Birmingham	31	-12	35
Aston Villa	31	-14	34
Blackpool	31	-18	33
West Ham	32	-18	32
Wolves	32	-20	32
Wigan	32	-23	31

Bundesliga

1 Borussia Dortmund

4 Ba 5 Ma 6 Nu 7 Ha 8 SO 9 So 10 T 11 C 12 F 13 V

ayer Leverkusen	20	23	20
annover 96	29	2	53
ayern Munich	29	26	52
ainz	29	6	45
uremberg	29	5	43
amburg	29	-1	42
C Freiburg	29	-3	41
chalke 04	29	1	39
SG Hoffenheim	29	2	37
Cologne	28	-11	35
C Kaiserslautern	29	-6	34
Verder Bremen	29	-16	34
Eintracht Frankfurt	29	-10	33
/fB Stuttgart	29	-5	30
Volfsburg	29	-10	28
St Pauli	28	-20	28
Borussia M'gladbach	28	-24	23

Hamburg1-1 Borussia Dortmund Hannover 96 2-0 Mainz Nuremberg 1-1 Bayern Munich SC Freiburg 3-2 TSG Hoffenheim Schalke 04 1-0 Wolfsburg VfB Stuttgart 2-4 FC Kaiserslautern Eintracht Frankfurt 1-1 Werder Bremer

Serie A

I AC IVIII all	01	02	U
2 Inter Milan	32	23	6
3 Napoli	31	20	6
4 Udinese	32	23	5
5 Lazio	31	10	5
6 Roma	32	5	5
7 Juventus	31	9	4
8 Palermo	31	-5	4
9 Fiorentina	31	4	4
10 Cagliari	31	1	4
11 Bologna	31	-6	4
12 Genoa	31	-5	3
13 Chievo	32	-4	3
14 Catania	31	-11	3
15 Parma	31	-13	3
16 Sampdoria	31	-10	3
17 Lecce	31	-19	3
18 Cesena	31	-16	3
19 Brescia	31	-12	2
20 Bari	31	-27	2
Inter Milan 2-0 Chievo			
Ildinaga 1.2 Dama			

Playing overnight Juventus v Genoa Bari v Catania Bologna v Napoli Cagliari v Brescia Lazio v Parma Sampdoria v Lecce

Palermo v Cesena Fiorentina v AC Milan

SPL

	Р	GD	Pts
Celtic	30	47	73
Rangers	29	37	68
Hearts	32	16	60
Dundee Utd	32	7	52
Kilmarnock	32	10	47
Motherwell	33	-7	44
Inverness CT	31	1	37
Hibernian	32	-15	36
St Johnstone	32	-20	34
0 Aberdeen	32	-19	31
1 St Mirren	32	-22	28
2 Hamilton	31	-35	16

La Ultra

	نار		
	Р	GD	P
arcelona	31	69	84
teal Madrid	31	50	76
'alencia	30	11	57
illarreal	30	17	54
evilla	31	2	46
thletic Bilbao	31	2	45
spanyol	30	-5	43
tletico Madrid	30	4	42
fallorca	31	-9	39
Levante	30	-7	38
Racing	30	-14	36
Osasuna	30		35
Sporting Gijon	30		35
Real Sociedad	30	-11	35
Getafe	30	-8	34
Deportivo		-15	34
Real Zaragoza	30	-14	30
Hercules	30	-20	29
Malaga	30	-23	29
Almeria	31	-22	26

Athletic Bilbao 0-3 Real Madrid Barcelona 3-1 Almeria Mallorca 2-2 Sevilla

Monday 11th April 2011

played and how they managed to control the match for the whole 90 minutes.

Vladimir Stojkovic denied Red Star to take the early lead in the first half but there was no stopping Andrija Kaludjerovic's 72nd minute strike. It was great build up play to set up the goal something you are accustomed to see from Barcelona. The same player should have made it 2:0 a few moments later but his shot went over the Partizan goal to the delight of the away fans.

"We all started to attack it was all or nothing so Partizan had some space. Other then that, they didn't really have any good chances. If we continue to play like we did today, I believe we can win all of our remaining matches and Partizan at their home ground in the League, and I don't know why we couldn't. We play good, we train even better and the atmosphere is excellent." Red Star Goalkeeper Boban Bajkovic said.

Red Star did not allow Partizan to get into the game at all and it was a rarity to see the defending League champions even past the halfway line. Red Star Manager Robert Prosinecki is now focused on winning the Serbian SuperLiga in which Red Star is only three points behind its arch rival.

'The result in the first leg was a hefty lead to take into this match for Partizan a team that consists of very experienced players and they played like a team defending that result so they would make the final. If we had converted our chance in the first half maybe we would have done more in the second. I am satisfied with our play and now we are looking forward to the League. We will try and catch up to Partizan and win the title. I believe the people that came to the 'Marakana' enjoyed what they saw. The most important thing is that they players forget this much as quick as possible because a huge battle awaits us in the title race. Unfortunately you can't miss so many chances in a two legged match, that was they key for us not competing in the final." Red Star Manager Robert Prosinecki said following the match.

In the Serbian SuperLiga, Vojvodina is level on points with Red Star and only three points behind League leaders Partizan following yet another fantastic performance. The club from Novi Sad defeated their Cup Semi Final opponents Sloboda 3:1 with goals

Lazetic, Katai, and Trajkovic after Sloboda had taken the lead through Sunjarevic.

Other Results:
BSK - Indija 4:0 (2:0)
Alivodic 11', 71', 83', Boškovic 35';
Jagodina - Javor 0:1 (0:0)
Milovanovic 62'; Smederevo - Metalac 1:0 (0:0) Stojanovic 89'; Borac
- Hajduk 1:0 (0:0) Mladenovic 64'.
Croatia

Croatia

Hajduk is 13 points behind league leaders Dinamo following a disastrous 3:0 loss to Varteks in Varezdin with a double to former Dinamo striker Davor Vugrinec.

"I believe that Varteks played a fantastic match and I can't remember the last time we lost to such a dominate performance by a side in the Croatian League. We beat them in Split 2:0 but even then they played fantastic, and they repeated that today but they won this time. I'm very upset Hajduk played such a poor match taking to account we are a huge club and matches like this should not happen. This has hit me very hard." Hajduk Manager Goran Vucevic said follow-

ing the match and added "In recent times I've had big disappointments but Hajduk is a club I love and it's very hard for me so resigning will be harder but that is an option."

Dinamo on the other hand continues to win, this time against it's affiliate club Lokomotiva with a goal to Sylvestr separating the sides. Dinamo is 13 points clear and will be in the Croatian Cup Final. It's been another good season for the club from the 'Maksimir' but the only thing that still alludes them is a spot in the UEFA Champions League which has been the clubs goal in the last decade or so, since they last played in the competition.

"We won and have added another three points to our name but I'm not convinced with our performance, we played poor football and I'm very upset with what we saw. I gave a chance to some fringe players to perform but they failed in doing so. We continue to win but our performances are not good at all, and this is a big problem for Dinamo. The players have to wake up to themselves especially the more experienced ones." Dinamo Manager Vahid Halihodzic said following the match.

be very pleased with the way they now focused on winning the Serbian nal opponent

Box Hil and Casey open season accounts

By Niki Cook

Round 3 of the Women's Premier League proved a happy one for several teams, as they broke through for their first wins of the campaign to create a congested ladder. Sandringham continues to lead the way at the top of the table, with three wins from three, with Box Hill, Ashburton and Casey joining it on the winners list.

Box Hill United recorded its first win of the season, as it ended the Emerging Athlete Program's unbeaten start, defeating the young side 2-1 at DISC in the midweek match. It looked for much of the match as though the EAP would chalk up its third straight victory, with Tayla Mure having given it the lead after twenty minutes, an advantage it maintained until the last few minutes of the game. Goals from Ruby Footit and Louisa Bisby in the final nine minutes snatched all three points from the EAP's grasp, and gave United its first triumph of the season. EAP drops to fourth on the ladder as a result of the loss, while Box Hill is sixth, but could finish the round in the top four, depending on how it fared in its Monday night match with South Melbourne Women's.

Last Monday night, Sandringham recorded its second 4-1 victory in as many games when it saw off VCL Country at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex, and it produced another dominant scoring display at Anderson Park on Friday night against Doncaster Rovers. Sandringham left it relatively late to get on the scoresheet, however, with the teams remaining locked at nilall at half time. Stephanie Tanti broke the deadlock ten minutes after the interval, before Sandringham killed the game off with three goals in eight minutes, which began twenty minutes from time. Eliza Gleadell began the goal rush, followed by Emma Runnalls, with Tanti rounding out the scoring with her second. Sandringham sits atop the WPL ladder, having won each of its games to date, with a healthy goal difference to boot. Doncaster lies tenth, with one point from its three games.

Ashburton went one better than the draw it managed last weekend, recording its first win of the season, with a 2-1 victory over Altona City at HC Kim Reserve on Sunday. As has been its wont this season, Ashburton got off to a flying start, scoring in the opening minute. Altona, the only WPL team vet to pick up a point. got itself back into the match with a 22nd minute equaliser, but Ashburton regained the lead seven minutes before the interval. With neither side able to find the net in the second half, Ashburton claimed all three points to take its tally for the season to four, and lift it to seventh on the ladder. Altona remains eleventh.

A first half hat-trick from Nicola Prins gave Casey Comets its first win of the season, as it defeated VCL Country at DISC on Sunday. Prins opened the scoring after 22 minutes, before adding further goals in the 28th and 35th minutes to give Casey



Casey captain Melissa Atherton (left) and Rebecca Sherry combine to stop #22 of the VCL Country. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Casey keeper Alexandra Lynch wears one for the team. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

a comfortable cushion. Neither side could find a breakthrough in the second half, enabling the Comets to take all three points. Casey now has four points from its three matches to date, and it climbs to fifth on the ladder. The defeat was VCL Country's third of the season, and it lies eighth, with three points.

The round also featured two matches on Monday night, including a top-of-the-table clash between Heidelberg United and Bundoora United, two teams with perfect records going into the match. They met at Olympic Village, while at Paisley Park, South Melbourne Women's took on Box Hill United.

Round 4 begins on Wednesday night when Sandringham looks to prolong its strong start to the season as it takes on the EAP at DISC. Box Hill United and Bundoora United will have to recover quickly from their Monday night matches, as they meet at Wembley Park on Friday night, while on Saturday night South Melbourne Women's and Heidelberg United clash at Paisley Park.

Sunday features three matches, with Casey Comets hosting Doncaster Rovers at Comets Stadium, Altona City and VCL Country meeting at HC Kim Reserve, and Ashburton welcoming Sandringham to Ashburton Park.



WPL RESULTS

Rd 3: Emerging Athlete Program 1 (T Mure) Box Hill United 2 (R Foottit L Bisby)

Doncaster Rovers 0 Sandringham SC 4 (E Gleadell E Runnalls S Tanti 2)

VCL Country 0
Casey Comets 3 (NJ Prins 3)

Altona City 1 Ashburton 2

Res: Rd 3: Doncaster Rovers 1 Sandringham SC 3

Altona City 0 Ashburton 4

WPL LADDER

	Р	VV	υ	L	- 1	Α	Pts
Sandringham	3	3	0	0	12	2	9
Bundoora Utd	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
Heidelberg Utd	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Emerging	3	2	0	1	9	6	6
Casey Comets	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Box Hill Utd	3	1	1	1	6	7	4
Ashburton	4	1	1	2	6	9	4
VCL Country	4	1	0	3	3	9	3
South Melb	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Doncaster R	3	0	1	2	3	10	1

WPL Round 3 Fixtures

Sandringham SC v Emerging Athlete DISC - Pitch 1 Wed 13 April 7:30PM

Box Hill United v Bundoora Utd Wembley Park Fri 15 April 8:30PM

South Melbourne v Heidelberg Utd Paisley Park Soccer Complex Sat 16 April 7:30PM Casey Comets v Doncaster Rovers

Comets Stadium Sun 17 April 1:00PM

Altona City v VCL Country HC Kim Reserve Sun 17 April 1:00PM

Ashburton v Sandringham SC Ashburton Park Sun 17 April 3:00PM

WPL RESERVES LADDER

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts
Box Hill Utd	2	2	0	0	15	3	6
South Melb	2	2	0	0	10	3	6
Bundoora Utd	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Iltona City	3	1	1	1	2	5	4
Casey Comets	2	1	0	1	6	5	3
Sandringham	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
shburton	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
merging	0				0	0	0
CL Country	0				0	0	0
Ooncaster R	3	0	0	3	3	14	0
leidelberg Utd	2	0	0	2	1	12	0

A VCL Country player is jumping here, but Casey Comets lept away to a 3-0 win. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Victorian State & Provisional Leagues - Round 02

STATE NORTH WEST 2

Brunswick City 2 Altona Fast Phoenix 3 (S Kul N Panaoboulos Diajanica), FC Clifton Hill 2 (PJ Grigg B Gasparinatos) Banyule City 0, Moreland City 7 (D Griffiths 3 L Kelly K Simsek 3) Geelong 2, Werribee City 2 Ballarat Red Devils 0, Williamstown 1 (M Oliveira) Altona City 1 (S Cudrig), Westgate 1 (G Barkho) Whittlesea Ranges FC 2 (B Georgioski R Panetta)

Brunswick City 1 Altona East Phoenix 3, FC Clifton Hill 4 Banyule City 0, Moreland City 4 (N Chapman 3 J Mazza) Geelong 1, Werribee City 1 Ballarat Red Dev-ils 0, Williamstown 2 (E Machado K Caruana) Alha City 0, Westgate 2 Whittlesea Ranges FC 2 (M Floris

STATE SOUTH EAST 2

Dandenong City 1 (R- Machado) Casey Comets 2, Diamond Valley Utd 4 South Springvale 2, Heatherton Utd 3 (M Klehic 2 M Pedic) Doncaster Rovers 1, Mowell Pegasus 0 Knox City 2, Box Hill United 4 Noble Park Utd 0, Malvern City 1 Eastern Lions 4

Dandenong City 0 Casey Comets 3, Diamond Valley Utd 2 South Springvale 4, Heatherton Utd 0 Doncaster Rov-ers 1, Morwell Pegasus 3 (S Amaira 2 O Sceney) Knox City 3, Box Hill United 1 Noble Park Utd 3, Malvern City 3 Eastern Lions 3

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	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PΤ		Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PΤ
Moreland City	2	2	0	0	9	3	6	FC Clifton Hill	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
FC Clifton Hill	2	2	0	0	4	0	6	Altona East Phoenix	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Werribee City	2	2	0	0	3	0	6	Werribee City	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Whittlesea Ranges FC	2	1	1	0	3	2	4	Westgate	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Ballarat Red Devils	2	1	0	1	4	2	3	Moreland City	2	1	0	1	5	3	3
Altona East Phoenix	2	1	0	1	4	4	3	Ballarat Red Devils	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Altona City	2	0	1	1	2	3	1	Brunswick City	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
Williamstown	2	0	1	1	1	5	1	Williamstown	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Westgate	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	Whittlesea Ranges FC	2	0	1	1	4	6	1
Banyule City	2	0	0	2	0	3	0	Altona City	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Geelong	2	0	0	2	2	9	0	Geelong	2	0	0	2	2	7	0
Brunswick City	2	0	1	1	3	4	-2	Banyule City	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

Box Hill United	2	1	1	0	5	1	4	South Springvale	2	2	0	0	7	3	6
Eastern Lions	2	1	1	0	5	2	4	Noble Park Utd	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Diamond Valley Utd	2	1	1	0	6	4	4	Doncaster Rovers	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Heatherton Utd	2	1	0	1	3	2	3	Casey Comets	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Knox City	2	1	0	1	3	3	3	Knox City	2	1	1	0	5	4	4
Dandenong City	2	1	0	1	3	3	3	Morwell Pegasus	2	0	2	0	5	5	2
Casey Comets	2	1	0	1	2	2	3	Eastern Lions	2	0	2	0	5	5	2
Malvern City	2	1	0	1	4	5	3	Malvern City	2	0	1	1	4	5	1
South Springvale	2	1	0	1	3	4	3	Box Hill United	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Morwell Pegasus	2	1	0	1	1	2	3	Heatherton Utd	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Noble Park Utd	2	0	1	1	2	6	1	Diamond Valley Utd	2	0	0	2	3	7	0
Doncaster Rovers	2	0	0	2	2	5	0	Dandenong City	2	0	0	2	1	7	0

STATE NORTH WEST 3

Avondale Heights 3 Sydenham Park 2, Geelong Rangers 2 (D Valys J Blackburn) Cairnlea 2, La Trobe University 0 Whittlesea Utd 2 (O Ayache 2), Maribyrnong Greens 0 Sunbury Utd 3 (I Filipovic M Filipovic D Gray), Yarraville Glory 3 Hume Utd 2, Melbourne University 0 Keilor Park

Avondale Heights 1 Sydenham Park 3, Geelong Rangers 0 Cairnlea 3, La Trobe University 2 (M Dinc C Clark) Whittlesea Utd 1 (H Azer), Maribyrnong Greens 2 Sunbury Utd 5 (SR McLelland 2 S Knudsen J Moody 2), Yarraville Glory 4 Hume Utd 3, Melbourne Univer-sity 0 Keilor Park 3 (J Bruzzichessi 2 M Mohamed)

Old Scotch

Peninsula Strikers

Fitzroy City North Caulfield

Kingston City

Mornington

STATE SOUTH EAST 3

PWDLFAPT

Fitzroy City 3 Croydon City Arrows 3 (A Bezanovic C

Fitzroy City 3 Croydon City Arrows 0, Peninsula Strikers 3 (M Demirkol G Lawler M Nader) Berwick City 2 (K Co-chrane A Torelli), Nunawading City FC 2 Frankston Pines 2 (R Beasley P Dimcevski), Old Scotch 3 Mornington 2

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Gonzalez 2), Peninsula Strikers 1 Berwick City 3, Nunawading City FC 2 Frankston Pines 1, Old Scotch 2

	P	w	n	- 1	F	Δ	PT		Р	w	D	L	F	Α	РΤ
Melbourne University	2	1	1	_	' ₄	<u></u>	4	Yarraville Glory	2	2	0	0	7	4	6
	2	- 1		0	7	0	7	Sunbury Utd	2	1	1	0	6	3	4
Whittlesea Utd	_	1	7	U	4	2	4	Sydenham Park	2	1	1	0	6	4	4
Keilor Park	2	1	1	0	2	0	4		_		- !	0	_		
Cairnlea	2	1	1	Ω	3	2	4	La Trobe University	2	1	1	0	5	4	4
Sydenham Park	2	1	'n	1	4	4	3	Whittlesea Utd	2	1	0	1	7	2	3
Avondale Heights	2	4	0	4	3	3	3	Avondale Heights	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
	_	- 1	U	- 1	3	-	-	Keilor Park	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
La Trobe University	2	1	0	1	2	2	3		2	- 1	0	- 1	7	-	-
Sunbury Utd	2	1	0	1	3	4	3	Cairnlea	2	1	0	7	3	5	3
Yarraville Glory	2	1	0	1	3	4	3	Hume Utd	2	0	1	1	6	7	1
Geelong Rangers	-	Ċ	2	Ó	4	4	2	Maribymong Greens	2	0	1	1	5	8	1
	_	U	_	•	4		_	Melbourne University	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Hume Utd	2	0	0	2	2	5	0		_	0	'		'	-	
Maribyrnong Greens	2	0	0	2	1	5	0	Geelong Rangers	2	0	U	2	0	9	0

Mornington 0 5 5 0 1 1 Frankston Pines 6 6 Peninsula Strikers 0 Nunawading City FC 0 1 0 3 Croydon City Arrows 0 Fitzroy City North Caulfield Waverley Wanderers 2 0 3 Doveton 0 0 Croydon City Arrows Frankston Pines 0

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Old Scotch

Kingston City

Berwick City

Doveton

Waverley Wanderers

Nunawading City FC

PROVI 1 NORTH WEST Reserves Seniors

Corio 2 Northern Falcons 0, North City Lions 1 (M Hana) South Yarra 3, North Sunshine Eagles 1 (G Ajdini) Es-Sendon Utd 1, Western Eagles 3 (K Hubiak P Mucha J Strycharski) Surf Coast 0, Westvale 0 Laverton Park 0, Sporting Whittlesea FC 2 (C Anastasiou A Robinson) FC Strathmore 2 (T Grgic A Kranjinovic)

Western Eagles

North City Lions

FC Strathmore

Essendon Utd

Surf Coast

Northern Falcons

North Sunshine Eagles

Sporting Whittlesea FC

South Yarra

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Corio 7 Northern Falcons 0, North City Lions 0 South Yarra 2, North Sunshine Eagles 5 Essendon Utd 1, Western Eagles 2 (S Couthinho Own Goal) Surf Coast Westvale 1 Laverton Park 2, Sporting Whittlesea FC 3 (R Lawrence D Jovcevski Y Yishake) FC Strath-more 2 (J Condemi T Cuk)

L	F	Α	PT		Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PT
0	5	1	6	North Sunshine Eagles	2	2	0	0	9	3	6
0	4	1	6	South Yarra	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
1	4	3	3	Surf Coast	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
1	3	4	3	Corio	2	1	0	1	9	4	3
1	2	3	3	North City Lions	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
0	4	4	2	Sporting Whittlesea FC	2	1	0	1	6	6	3
0	3	3	2	Essendon Utd	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
0	2	2	2	Laverton Park	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
1	3	4	1	Northern Falcons	2	1	0	1	4	10	3
1	2	3	1	Westvale	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
1	1	2	1	FC Strathmore	2	0	0	2	4	7	0
1	4	7	1	Western Eagles	2	0	0	2	2	6	0

PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST Reserves

Beaumaris 4 (S Boffa 2 M Runnalls TF Cannon) Skye Utd 3 (JJ Muon M Cordoma V Villela), Brandon Park 1 Hampton Park United Sparrows Football Club 3, Lyndale Utd 1 Mooroolbark 3 (B Roper D Adams 2), Old Camberwell Grammar 0 Springvale City 1, Old Melburnians 1 Warragul Utd 2, Sandringham SC 2 Monash University 3 (O Arenneng R Roslan M Solovyev)

Warragul Utd 0 0 0 6 Mooroolbark 2 0 6 3 2 Springvale City Hampton Park United 0 3 5 4 4 4 Monash University Skye Utd Beaumaris 0 Old Melburnians Lvndale Utd 0 Old Camberwell Gramma 2 0 Sandringham SC 0 5 Brandon Park 0 0

ton United 2 (JA Clemson A Jackson) Endeavour Utd 0, Boroondara Eagles 1 Caulfield United Cobras SC 2, Casey Kings 1 Old Carey 1, Seaford Utd 1 Monbulk 2, Uni. of Melbourne 1 Keysborough 1

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0 6 Beaumaris 3 Skye Utd 2 (A Gheorghiv 2), Brandon Park 1 Hampton Park United Sparrows Football Club 1, Lyndale Utd 2 Mooroolbark 3 (AW Holly RA Law JG Odd), Old Camberwell Grammar 2 Springvale City 0, Old Melbumians 1 Warragul Utd 3, Sandringham SC 2 Monash University 2

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6	Mooroolbark	2	2	0	0	7	2	6	
6	Old Camberwell Grammar	2	2	0	0	6	1	6	
6	Beaumaris	2	2	0	0	4	2	6	
4	Sandringham SC	2	1	1	0	5	2	4	
4	Monash University	2	1	1	0	5	3	4	
3	Old Melburnians	2	1	0	1	6	3	3	
3	Warragul Utd	2	1	0	1	3	2	3	
1	Brandon Park	2	0	1	1	1	5	1	
1	Hampton Park United	2	0	1	1	1	6	1	
0	Lyndale Utd	2	0	0	2	3	6	0	
0	Skye Utd	2	0	0	2	3	7	0	
0	Springvale City	2	0	0	2	0	5	0	

PROVI 2 NORTH WEST Reserves

Epping City 2 Upfield 1, Lalor Utd 2 (V Aleksovski C Rachkovski) Bell Park 1, Melbourne City 3 Moreland Utd 5, Melbourne Tornado 3 (L Miocic S Miocic D Tonc) Elwood City 3, West Preston 1 (WJ Sismanis) Plenty Valley Lions 0, Northern Roosters 2 (M Kocaayon M Elkhafir) Hop pers Crossing 3

Epping City 0 Upfield 2, Lalor Utd 4 (D Filiposki A Sekulovski 2 PJ Vrzovski) Bell Park 1, Melbourne City 2 Moreland Utd 0, Melbourne Tornado 4 Elwood City 12, West Preston 1 Plenty Valley Lions 2, Northern Roosters 0 Hoppers Crossing 2

Caulfield United Cobras

Riversdale

Monbulk

Casey Kings

Old Carey Bayside Argonauts

Boroondara Eagles

PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST Riversdale 2 Bayside Argonauts 1 (D Dainty), Ashbur-

PWDL

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PWD I FAPT

Riversdale 2 Bayside Argonauts 7 (D Andreou 2 A Motsiopoulos 3 C Kozaris G Tzitzivakos), Ashburton United 2 Endeavour Utd 1, Boroondara Eagles 0 Caulfield United Cobras SC 2, Casey Kings 1 Old Carey 1, Seaford Utd 0 Monbulk 4, Uni. of Melbourne 3 Keysborough 5

	Р	w	D	L	F	Α	РТ		Р	w	D	L	F	А	РТ
Hoppers Crossing	2	2	0	0	6	2	6	Lalor Utd	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Moreland Utd	2	2	0	0	6	3	6	Upfield	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
West Preston	2	2	0	0	4	2	6	Elwood City	2	1	1	0	14	6	4
Melbourne Tornado	2	1	1	0	6	4	4	Melbourne City	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Upfield	2	1	0	1	3	2	3	Hoppers Crossing	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Epping City	2	1	0	1	3	3	3	Epping City	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Plenty Valley Lions	2	1	0	1	2	2	3	Plenty Valley Lions	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
Lalor Utd	2	1	0	1	2	4	3	Bell Park	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Elwood City	2	0	1	1	5	6	1	Northern Roosters	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Northern Roosters	2	0	0	2	2	4	0	West Preston	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Bell Park	2	0	0	2	2	5	0	Moreland Utd	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Melbourne City	2	0	0	2	3	7	0	Melbourne Tornado	2	0	0	2	4	14	0

Ashburton United 0 Boroondara Eagles 0 Keysborough Old Carey Uni. of Melbourne 0 6 Casey Kings 2 0 Seaford Utd 0 3 2 Endeavour Utd 0 Seaford Utd 2 0 0 **PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST** Seniors Reserves

Ashburton United

Uni. of Melbourne

Bayside Argonauts

Endeavour Utd

Keysborough

Caulfield United Cobras

Monbulk

PROVI 3 NORTH WEST

Darebin Utd 2 Melton Phoenix FC 1 (J Borg), Essendon Royals 3 (M Strasser M Collina 2) Brimbank Stallions 1, Mill Park 0 Watsonia Heights 2, Youth Utd 1 Heidelberg Stars 3 (N Yussuf 2 H Abdi), Moreland Wolves 1 Meadow Park Eagles 2 (D Magro 2), Brunswick Zebras 3 Balmoral FC 2 (A Zeric 2)

Darebin Utd 1 Melton Phoenix FC 0. Essendon Royals 0 Brimbank Stallions 1, Mill Park 0 Watsonia Heights 3, Youth Utd 3 Heidelberg Stars 4, Moreland Wolves 5 Meadow Park Eagles 0, Brunswick Zebras 1 Balmoral FC 1 (A Hassan)

East Bentleigh 1 Rowville Eagles 5 (I Skorupski J Tsung J Mardale A Sabau 2), Whitehorse Utd 0 Old Brighton Grammarians 3, White Star Dandenong 0 Old Trinity Grammarians 3 (A Hallam 3), Brighton 2 Baxter 4, Noble Park 0 Middle Park FC 2, Eltham Redback FC 1 (T Rushby-Silverman) Collingwood City 4 (T Jones-Roberts 2 I Skukan 2)

East Bentleigh 2 Rowville Eagles 5 (K Hasanzada R East Bentleigh 2 Kowville Lagles 5 (K Hasanzada K Mihailovici FB Radauceanu 2 A Mitrea), Whitehorse Utd 2 Old Brighton Grammarians 3, White Star Dandenong 1 Old Trinity Grammarians 5, Brighton 3 Baxter 3 (S Drew 2 A Lipsett), Noble Park 0 Middle Park FC 2, Eltham Redback FC 1 Collingwood City 4 (M Turgon K Sherwood 2 G Hoyos)

Heidelberg Stars
Essendon Royals
Brunswick Zebras
Meadow Park Eagles
Watsonia Heights
Brimbank Stallions
Darebin Utd
Youth Utd
Balmoral FC
Molton Phoonix EC

Moreland Wolves

Seniors

,	w	D	L	F	Α	РΤ		Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	PΤ
	2	0	0	6	1	6	Heidelberg Stars	2	2	0	0	15	4	6
	2	0	0	9	6	6	Moreland Wolves	2	2	0	0	10	1	6
	2	0	0	8	5	6	Watsonia Heights	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
	2	0	0	6	3	6	Darebin Utd	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
	1	0	1	5	5	3	Essendon Royals	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
	1	0	1	4	4	3	Melton Phoenix FC	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
	1	0	1	4	5	3	Brimbank Stallions	2	1	0	1	2	5	3
	1	0	1	3	4	3	Balmoral FC	2	0	1	1	4	6	1
	0	0	2	7	9	0	Brunswick Zebras	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
	0	0	2	2	4	0	Meadow Park Eagles	2	0	1	1	1	6	1
	0	0	2	2	5	0	Youth Utd	2	0	0	2	5	7	0
	0	0	2	0	5	0	Mill Park	2	0	0	2	1	14	0

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PT	
Rowville Eagles	2	2	0	0	10	3	6	OI
Old Brighton Gramm	2	2	0	0	8	1	6	Ro
Middle Park FC	2	2	0	0	7	0	6	OI
Collingwood City	2	2	0	0	6	1	6	Co
Whitehorse Utd	2	1	0	1	3	3	3	Ba
Noble Park	2	1	0	1	3	3	3	Mi
Old Trinity Grammarians	2	1	0	1	3	3	3	Br
Baxter	2	1	0	1	4	7	3	No
Brighton	2	0	0	2	2	6	0	Ea
East Bentleigh	2	0	0	2	2	8	0	W
White Star Dandenong	2	0	0	2	2	8	0	El
Eltham Redback FC	2	0	0	2	2	9	0	W

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PΤ	
Old Trinity Grammarians	2	2	0	0	9	2	6	
Rowville Eagles	2	2	0	0	9	4	6	
Old Brighton Gramm	2	2	0	0	4	2	6	
Collingwood City	2	1	1	0	6	3	4	
Baxter	2	1	1	0	6	5	4	
Middle Park FC	2	1	0	1	4	3	3	
Brighton	2	0	2	0	5	5	2	
Noble Park	2	0	1	1	1	3	1	
East Bentleigh	2	0	1	1	3	6	1	
Whitehorse Utd	2	0	0	2	3	7	0	
Eltham Redback FC	2	0	0	2	1	5	0	
White Star Dandenong	2	0	0	2	3	9	0	

Victorian State & Provisional League Scoreboard brought to you by

The Vibration Continues

State & Provi **Round 3 Fixtures**

All matches to be played on Saturday 16th April with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated

State NW 2

Geelong v Brunswick City Stead Park Reserve Fri 15 April 8:30PM Altona City v Werribee City Altona East Phoenix v Whittlesea Ranges FC Paislev Park Soccer Complex Ballarat Red Devils v FC Clifton Hill Trekardo Park Banyule City v Moreland City Yallambie Park Res...

Doncaster Rovers v Diamond Valley Utd Anderson Park Fri 15 April 8:30PM Casey Comets v Heatherton Utd

State SE 2

Comets Stadium

Williamstown v Westgate

Knox City v Dandenong City Egan Lee Reserve Morwell Pegasus v Malvern City Ronald Reserve
Noble Park Utd v Eastern Lions Parkfield Reserve South Springvale v Box Hill United Warner Reserve

Cairnlea v La Trobe University

Cairnlea Park Avondale Heights v Maribyrnong Greens Doyle Street Reserve Hume Utd v Melbourne University Laura Douglas Reserve Keilor Park v Sunbury Utd Keilor Park Reserve Sydenham Park v Geelong Rangers Keilor Lodge Reserve Whittlesea Utd v Yarraville Glory

Thomas Street Recreation Res

Jack Thomas Reserve Fitzroy City v Waverley Wanderers Fairfield Park Mornington v Croydon City Arrows
Dallas Brooks Park Frankston Pines v Old Scotch Monterey Reserve Sat 16 April 7:00PM North Caulfield v Peninsula Strikers Caulfield Park Sun 17 April 3:00PM Kingston City v Doveton

The Grange Reserve Mon 18 April 8:30PM

Berwick City v Nunawading City FC

Provi NW 1

FC Strathmore v Corio

Strathnaver Reserve Laverton Park v Western Eagles Laverton Park Reserve Northern Falcons v North City Lions South Yarra v Westvale Fawkner Park (North Field)
Surf Coast v Essendon Utd Quav Reserve Sporting Whittlesea v North Sunshine Eagles

RGC Cook Reserve

Warragul Utd v Brandon Park Baxter Park (Warragul) Skye Utd v Old Melburnians Hampton Park Utd v Mooroolbark KM Reedv Reserve Monash Uni v Old Camberwell Gramma Monash University Sandringham SC v Lyndale Utd Spring St Oval Springvale City v Beaumaris Ross Reserve

Provi NW 2

Bell Park v Hoppers Crossing Bell Park Sports Club Elwood City v Lalor Utd Elwood Park Melbourne City v Northern Roosters Edwards Reserve Moreland Utd v Epping City Plenty Valley Lions v Melbourne Tornado Sycamore Reserve
Upfield v West Preston

Gibb Reserve

Monbulk v Boroondara Eagles Monbulk Recreation Fri 15 April 8:30PM Ashburton United v Riversdale Casey Kings v Seaford Utd Betula Park
Caulfield United Cobras v Uni. of Melbourne Victory Park Endeavour Utd v Old Carey Reema Reserve Keysborough v Bayside Argonauts Coomoora Reserve

Brimbank Stallions v Balmoral FC Club Italia Sporti.. Heidelberg Stars v Darebin Utd Cartledge Reserve Meadow Park Eagles v Essendon Royals Gladstone Park F Mill Park v Brunswick Zebras Findon Reserve Watsonia Heights v Youth Utd Melton Phoenix FC v Moreland Wolves MacPhersons Park Sat 16 April 7:00PM

Provi SE 3

Collingwood City v Baxter Kevin Bartlett Res Whitehorse Utd v Eltham Redbacks FC Noble Park v Brighton lorman Luth Reserve Old Trinity Grammarians v East Bentleigh Rowville Eagles v Middle Park FC Park Ridge Reserve
Old Brighton Gram v White Star Dande Dendy Park

goal

ANOTHER READER

Moreland City in Seventh Heaven

By Michal Skrodsky

Well crunch heads Round 2 has come and gone with some fantastic, fast-flowing, Brazilianesque football displayed all over Victoria this week.

Eh... who are we kidding it's the State and Provi leagues we're talking about, but there were some interesting results nonetheless and this reporter has them right here for you, packaged in a nice, small parcel that will keep you up to date bang on every Monday.

Okay, **State 2 NW** saw the first point deductions of the year with both Brunswick City and Westgate being docked 3 points for apparently fielding suspended players in Round 1, and word is Clifton Hill may lose 3 points too taking the official docked points tally up to 9 so far for the season.

Clifton Hill, Moreland City and Werribee City made it two wins from two with Moreland's 7-2 win over Geelong the crunchiest result of the week. Altona East also had an entertaining 3-2 win in the Hellenic Derby over Brunswick City.

State 2 SE had some funny results with all of last week's winners going down this week.

The United men of Box Hill take top spot for this week after a 4-0 pumping of Noble Park United. Eastern Lions also had a good 4-1 away win over Malvern City. The only team without a point in this league so far is Doncaster Rovers who might need to set up some sort of stall at the local Westfield

(colloquially known as "Shoppo") to sign up some members and find new sponsors.

State 3 NW also had no teams who won last week go on and make it two from two. Two teams that will push for promotion in Melbourne University and the purple eagles of Keilor Park squared off against eachother in what was match of the round but ended in a disappointing 0-0 draw. All games this week were pretty tight with Sunbury turning a 4-0 loss from last week into a 3-0 win this week. Maribyrnong Greens and Hume United remain without a point after two rounds.

In **State 3 SE** Old Scotch have taken an outright lead after a beeffilled 3-2 win over Mornington. But North Caulfield or Kingston can join as both their games haven't been played yet. Croydon City seem to be struggling early on, conceding six goals in two games. Not much else can be said about this league as it remains close early on.

In Provisional 1 NW at the Polish Sport and Recreation Centre the pierogi and placki were hot as the pride and passion of the Polish community of Melbourne, Western Eagles, defeated fellow beniaminek (beniaminek directly translated means darling or, Benjamin, but in Poland it is a word used for a team who was promoted last season. I for one think we need a word like this in English but for now I'll just use beniaminek) 3-0 and take top spot after two rounds. The three goals for the Eagles

came in a mad 4 minute period in the first half. However the Eagles are only ahead of the chasing Hungarian powerhouse of Corio by goal difference.

The highly fancied North Sunshine again failed to fire this week with a 1-1 draw at home to Essendon United making it 2 points from 2 games. All teams have picked up at least one point in this league making this reporter think this will be a tight league with every team being a good chance of knocking off every other team.

Provisional 1 SE saw Warragul United, Mooroolbark and Springvale City make it back to back wins while Old Camberwell, Sandringham and Brandon Park made it back to back losses. Daine Adams continued his great early season form scoring two of the Barkers' three goals in their 3-1 away win at Lyndale United. Beaumaris had a last minute 4-3 win at home to Skye United. Thomas F Cannon was the hero of the day, Thomas "I'm not from Oakleigh" Cannon scored in the 90th minute sending the home fans into raptures.

Provisional 2 NW saw Hoppers Crossing, Moreland United and West Preston share the peak of the table after 2 rounds with a full compliment of points. The same can't be said about the Northern Roosters, Bell Park and Melbourne City who have a big fat doughnut in the Points column. Match of the week had to be Moreland United's 5-3 crunch win against the Argentinian men of Melbourne City. William J Sismanis (maybe a relation of Wil-

liam J Bartholomew) scored the winner for West Preston in their 1-0 win over bitter rivals Plenty Valley Lions. Next week's match of the round in this reporter's oppinion will be Epping City travelling to Moomba Park Reserve to face Moreland United.

Provisional 2 SE saw Caulfield United and Riversdale occupy the top two places of the ladder after both had wins this weekend. This week saw a lot less goals and much tighter games that were on a knife's edge with 2-1 being the biggest scoreline. It looks like it will take a few more rounds to sort out who are the real deal in this league.

Last week's league of the week, **Provisional 3 NW** produced some more goals but not in the same copious amounts as last week. It is interesting that there is yet to be a drawn game in Provi 3 NW. Heidelberg Stars sit pretty on top of the ladder on goal difference following 3-1 win at Youth United. The are being hotly chased by Essendon Royals, Brunswick Zebras and Meadow Park who all recorded wins this week.

Next week's match of the week will be Meadow Park vs Essendon Royals in a top of the table showdown. Provisional 3 SE didn't settle down this week with more blow out ice hockey scores. Rowville Eagles smashed 5 again, this week the victims of the Romanian sting were East Bentleigh. Middle Park had a solid 2-0 away win at Noble Park making them the only team to still have a clean sheet. Maybe Middle Park can

lend some defenders to Eltham Redbacks who concede 4 this week to add to their 5 from last week. Old Brighton and Collingwood City also haven't dropped any points at this early stage of the season.

Okay readers, this week I've decided to have a few regular segments/mentions. The first one will be Thumping of the Week, this week it goes to Moreland City for their 7-2 win over Geelong. Next one will be, The Crunch Game at it's Best, which looks at the most important game for next week. It's hard to tell as it is still early on in the season but I'd say it would be Provisional 2 NW's Moreland United hosting Epping City. Epping needs to show they are the real deal and not just preseason wonders while Moreland will be looking to make it 3 from 3. I will also keep count of points deducted by the FFV, we're at 9 after 8 rounds of VPL and 2 of the lower leagues.

As always I encourange everyone to get to their local club. Support them with your hands, support them with your voice and make some noise to support the boys, because that's what local football means to me. That's how I like my State and Provisional leagues to be, proud and passionate!

CRUNCHALOR!

PS.. Feel free to send in any pics of your team in action to news@ goalweekly.com so we can make a star out of you or post it up on our facebook page.

competition!!

GW

Front Cover

Goal! Weekly is just going crazy with reader competitions this week!

Comp

All you have to do is post a picture of yourself with a front cover of a recent Goal! Weekly at a monumental place of interest or landmark on our Facebook page and you can be in the running to win a great prize. We'll even publish the best ones in the mag. Eiffel Tower? Statue of Liberty? Wembley?

Leave the gnome at home and take a GW with you!

We'll let the readers decide who the winner is by a democratic vote with the most likes

In the meantime get cracking so you could win yourself a weekly prize!



FACE IN THE CROWD



Win yourself a Goal! Weekly subscription by spotting yourself in the crowd of an Alanic VPL game.

We'll be selecting a lucky winner each week, and all you need to do to claim your prize is send us a message on our GW Facebook page - it's that easy!

To get the ball rolling we've got two fans circled at recent VPL games. The picture above was taken by

fans circled at recent VPL games.
The picture above was taken by
photographer Peter Psarros at
Green Gully versus Northcote City
on the weekend, and the one below
was taken last week by John Punshon at Richmond Eagles against
Bentleigh Greens.

You've got until noon this Friday to claim your prize. Good luck!



Australian soccer legend, Eddie Krncevic represented the Socceroos 35 times and scored 17 goals. He played professionally in Europe for Dimano Zagreb (Croatia), MSV Duisberg (Germany), Mulhouse (France) and Anderlecht, FC Liege, Aalst and Charleroi in Belgium. Eddie is currently coach of VPL's South Melbourne FC.

With Eddie Krncevic

Greetings football fans and welcome to another dose of Krncevic's Crunchlines.

TACKLING TACKLES

I've managed to catch a fair few games this season and one thing that has really stood out to me is the amount of over the top tackling that is going unpunished by referees. I'm not sure if it's because some players are aware that A-League scouts and coaches are reported to be in the crowd and they're over zealous to impress is perhaps a cause and effect of this, but in my mind it is getting to the point of it being too dangerous, and if we're not careful someone is going to get really hurt – potentially even career threatening.

In my opinion the referees have to be more consistent in stamping this type of behaviour out of the game. It seems to be occurring all too frequently and we must take responsibility of this issue before it's too late. Yes, we all want to be winners at the end of the ninety minutes, but I don't believe it should come at a cost of someone's well being.

ROONEY'S RANT

I would also like to make a comment about Wayne Rooney's antics last weekend when he swore down the lens of the camera to a live TV audience. Whilst quite disappointed by his actions and the example he set as a role model to the millions of voungsters watching around the world, I believe to some degree it wasn't all that surprising. Unfortunately in today's day and age the behaviour of the professional footballer leaves a lot to be desired. I don't believe the two match ban was sufficient and the English FA should really have come down harder on him. There's no doubt that he's a world class player, but that's still no excuse or justification for what he did. Once again, I think it is a poor reflection of the values and manners of our society and the direction we're slowly heading. It's all well and good to be passionate and committed to your cause, but a touch of class seems to be a human quality from a bygone era.

VICTORY GIG

A number of names have been associated with the Melbourne Victory job of late. Of course the

latest one was Roy Keane. and it's no secret that my name has also been linked to the job. In my opinion, the Victory fans are starving for a team that plays an open and entertaining style of play. Ange Postecoglou showed that a local coach can deliver on that promise when given a chance at Brisbane Roar. I don't believe that the A-League clubs should be all too quick to jump on names that perhaps carried some weight of a reputation as players in the EPL. Ask Perth Glory what their afterthoughts were of Steve McMahon, or Ipswich Town or Sunderland what they thought Roy Keane actually brought to their clubs as a coach. I realise that the Australian football public is hell bent with an infatuation with the EPL. But, we actually have quite a number of talented people right here in Australia under our noses that can do the job and do the job well, and who understand the culture of our game and the style of play our fans want to see. Ernie Merrick did deliver two championships for Melbourne Victory, but in all due respect I believe that a number of fans weren't entirely stimulated by the style of play that was adopted by them since the league began. Too predictable? Too narrow? Every is entitled to their opinion. However, the Barcelona's, Arsenal's and to a certain extent the Brisbane Roar's of this world display a style of football that is silky, slick and what the average fan would be happy to come pay and watch.

PORT MELBOURNE are the only team with maximum points at the end of round two and sit proudly on top of the ladder. Port were expected to be the bench mark of the competition this season and they are proving to be at this early stage. Pascoe Vale put the first round loss behind them by crushing Preston Lions to bounce back in to contention. Southern Stars came back from a seemingly desperate position to record their first win of the season, as did Fawkner Blues who managed to get the better of Bulleen. North Geelong, FC Bulleen Lions and Preston Lions are vet to open their accounts. With the competition being so tight and teams evenly matched no result can be considered a surprise.

SHARKS PERFECT START CONTINUES PT MELBOURNE SHARKS 2

NTH GEELONG WARRIORS 0 Round two kicked off on Friday

night at SS Anderson Reserve with Port Melbourne continuing their good start to the season with a 2-0 win over North Geelong Warriors. The 2-0 score line flatters the Sharks who were made to work very hard for the win. North displayed great determination throughout the match and can consider themselves unfortunate to come away from this match empty handed. Port left it very late to clinch the match with Mark Tsiorlas opening the scoring in the 81 minute and Joe Di Iorio sealing the win with 2 minutes left on the clock. It was devastating for North Geelong to concede so late in the game after they looked the more likely to get on the board. The opening 45 minutes saw the home team create a number of openings with the Warriors keeper rising to the occasion to deny the home team from scoring. The form was reversed in the second half with the visitors taking control only to be denied with some smart saves by the Port Melbourne keeper. All the good work by North was undone in the closing stages with Port grabbing two late goals to register their second successive win. The Warriors showed

PASCOE VALE FIRING ON 6 CYLINDERS **PASCOE VALE 6**

plenty to suggest they will be a

force and move up the ladder.

PRESTON LIONS 0

Pascoe Vale bounced back from their opening round one defeat to decisively defeat a poor Preston Lions side 6-0 in front of over 600 spectators at Hosken Reserve on Saturday afternoon. Pascoe Vale took control from the first whistle and exposed the Preston defence at will. Pascoe Vale was like a well oiled machine with the team displaying great understanding, producing many fine moves. The game was as good as over by half time with 'Paco' racing to a 4-0 lead. The expected fight back by Preston to restore some respectability to the score line never eventuated, with the in form Pascoe Vale side adding 2 further goals after the break. Pascoe Vale goal scorers were Bale Micovski 2, with Joseph Yousef, Zlate Matlioski, Daniel Tribuzio

and Jason Principato scoring a goal

Sharks start season with plenty of bite

in round 4 last year. It is early days yet, but the warning signs indicate Preston is in for another tough year.

MAGIC AND ZEBRAS SHARE **SPOILS WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS 2**

ALTONA MAGIC 2

Whittlesea Zebras and Altona Magic played out the first drawn game of the 2011 first division season when they drew 2-2 at Epping Stadium on Sunday Afternoon. The Zebras were very dominant in the first half and deserved their goals lead scored by Vincent Faherty and Tex Apostolikas The confidence was oozing out of the Zebras players, but the home team was rocked just before the break with a goals scored by Tedros Yabio. The game was more of an even contest after the break with Magic's players lifting their play in search of an equaliser. Magic managed to draw level in fortunate circumstances with only 7 minutes remaining when a Whittlesea Zebra's defender scored an own goal for a final score of 2-2. It was a satisfying point for Altona Magic, but Whittlesea felt a little aggrieved at letting a 2 goal slip through their

RYAN'S WONDER GOAL WINS IT FOR STARS

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS

SOUTHERN STARS 3

Southern Stars staged a remarkable fight back to win a 3-2 thriller over Sunshine George Cross at Chaplin Reserve. It was end to end football throughout this match with the Georgies taking a 2 goal lead in the opening 20 minutes courtesy of a goal by Barry Devlin and an Andrew Bourakis converted penalty. The visitors were given a life line after 38 minutes when Georgie's goalkeeper Mario Roza dropped a long range drive by Alan Mulcahy at the feet of former Georgie Chis Greechan. The big striker accepted the gift to put Southern Stars back in the game. Sunshine had a lucky let off just before the break when Mark Leech saw his dipping shot strike the cross-bar. At the other end a last minute block by Halil Gur denied Georgie's Sam Gibson of a certain goal. It took only 2 minutes after the break for the Stars to be on level terms, when the referee harshly judged Barry Devlin had fouled Keiren Fitzgerald. Alan Kearnev made no mistake from the spot for a 2-2 score line. The visitors took the lead at the 55 minute mark with the goal of the game. The ball was punched clear by the Sunshine keeper to well outside the penalty area, only for Darragh Ryan to unleash a powerful drive, that flew in to the back of the net like a jet fuelled rocket. It was a goal worthy to win any match and so it proved. Sunshine George Cross staged a series of attacks and went close several times to levelling, only to be denied by some desperate clear-

ances and narrow misses.



Pascoe Vale has just scored its 5th goal and they're pretty pleased with themselves. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Pascoe Vale keeper, Codey Larkin flings himself at the ball, but central defender, Daniel Tribuzio has already headed the ball out of danger. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

LIONS GIVEN THE BLUES FAWKNER BLUES 1 FC BULLEEN LIONS 0

Fawkner Blues edged out fierce rival FC Bulleen Lions 1-0 at CB Smith Reserve for their first 3 points for the season and earn bragging rights until next time they meet. It took Simon Tolli only 3 minutes to settle the issue, and despite numerous chances going begging at each end, neither team could add to the score. Fawkner looked superior in the first half and should have led by more than their slender goal lead. Bulleen improved after the break and looked most threatening from dead ball situation. The final touch

however deserted them. Fawkner was also guilty in this department, as they too could not put the issue beyond doubt, leaving the balance of the game in doubt until the final whistle. Bulleen have not made the start expected of them losing both their two opening match, which must be a concern for a team with high ambitions.

LANGWARRIN HOLDS WEST-**ERN SUBURBS WESTERN SUBURBS 1**

LANGWARRIN 1

After a very even first half where both teams got on the score board, Western Suburbs and Langwarrin had to settle for a point each in ar

exciting clash at Ralph Reserve on Sunday afternoon. The visitors took an early lead in this match to continue from where they left off in their last match. It didn't take Suburbs long to get back on level terms when Dimitri Vithoulkas broke through to beat the Michael Sivulja in the visitor's goal. The heavy rain made the ground slippery and at times it was a lottery with some heavy tackles going in. Western Suburbs took control in the second half but could not capitalise on the many chances that were created. Both sides were happy to take a point from the game and both must be satisfied with the start to their 2011 campaign.

SL1 RESULTS

Rd 2:

Port Melbourne 2 (J Di Lorio M Tsiorlas) North Geelong Warriors 0

Pascoe Vale 6 Preston Lions 0

Whittlesea Zebras 2 Altona Magic 2

Sunshine George Cross 2 (B Devlin A Bourakis) Southern Stars 3

Western Suburbs 1 Langwarrin 1

U21: Rd 2: Port Melbourne 1

North Geelong Warriors 4

Pascoe Vale 2 Preston Lions 1

Western Suburbs 3 Langwarrin 2

Whittlesea Zebras 3 Altona Magic 2

SL1 LADDER

	Р	VV	U	L	г	М	PlS
Port Melbourne	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Langwarrin	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Whittlesea Z	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Altona Magic	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Western Sub	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Pascoe Vale	2	1	0	1	7	2	3
George Cross	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Southern Stars	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
Bulleen Lions	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Fawkner Blues	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
North Geelong	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Preston Lions	2	0	0	2	1	8	0

SL1 Round 3 Fixtures

Port Melbourne v Western Suburbs SS Anderson Reserve Fri 15 April 8:30PM

Southern Stars v Preston Lions Kingston Heath Soccer Complex Sat 16 April 3PM

Langwarrin v Fawkner Blues Lawton Park Reserve Sat 16 April 3PM

Sunshine George Cross v Nth Geelong Sun 17 April 3:00PM

Whittlesea Zebras v Pascoe Vale Epping Soccer Stadium Sun 17 April 3:00PM

FC Bulleen Lions v Altona Magic Veneto Social Club Mon 18 April 8:30PM

SL1 U21 LADDER

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts	
coe Vale	2	2	0	0	9	3	6	
ittlesea Z	2	2	0	0	6	4	6	
een Lions	1	1	0	0	7	2	3	
th Geelong	2	1	0	1	5	3	3	
kner Blues	1	1	0	0	3	2	3	
thern Stars	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	
gwarrin	2	1	0	1	4	4	3	
stern Sub	2	1	0	1	5	9	3	
na Magic	2	0	0	2	4	6	0	
ston Lions	2	0	0	2	3	5	0	
t Melbourne	2	0	0	2	1	5	0	
orge Cross	1	Ω	Ω	1	2	7	Λ	

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eyes on FOz Cup and relegation battles

By Peter Parthimos & Matthew Montgomery

Fitzroy FC 5-4 Collingwood FC UPDATE: Fitzroy FC sign off the 10-11 season with a come from behind win against already relegated FC Collingwood. A well earned brace from Samin Mehrjeri and a late penalty from influential striker Haider Noor (also two goals) was enough to see Fitzroy secure 7th spot and a place in the FOz CUP. Fitzroy FC will now have to lift their game as they will be facing 2nd placed Metropolitan FC in the 1st round of the Cup. Although they battled and gave their all over the duration of the season, FC Collingwood will have to wait until the 2011 State LEAGUE Championship resumes to try

Metropolitan FC 7-3 Brimbank FC

and re-gain their top flight status. Fitzroy

won 5 - 4 in the end.

UPDATE: Brimbank FC go down to old rivals Metropolitan FC 7-3 in the second clash of the night. Metro will again be ruing missed chances and dropped points over the season for the second year in a row as they completed their 10-11 campaign on a positive note in preparation for the Cup. It was a welcome return for Metro's Ivan Zilic as he scored 3 quality goals. Having Zilic back in the squad created another avenue to goal and eased scoring pressure on regular scorer Dino Redzepovic, whose form has dipped in recent weeks. As for Brimbank, they finish 11th position as they had an up and down season and will have to face 2nd placed State LEAGUE team FC Balwyn over 2 legs of relegation battles.

Pascoe Vale FC 9-4 Nth Melb FC

UPDATE: Pascoe Vale FC finishes off the season on a high note after disposing of 3rd placed Nth Melbourne FC in style. North were certainly up for the challenge as they played with gusto early in the first half and took it up to the new champs with impressive goals from Brenno Polatti (2 goals) & Tiago Priori (1). PVFC looked shell-shocked as they went 4-2down at the break. In the second half, (as champions do....) Pascoe Vale rose to the challenge. A 5 goal haul from Joao Da Silva was the difference in the end as the Dark Blues depleted squad grew tired and couldn't repeat their first half efforts as they were held scoreless in the final half. The 10-11 season Champions running out comfortable winners 9 - 4 in the end. It was a good final indicator for both teams are at, as final preparations for the Cup

Photos By MATT MONTGOMERY & JAMES SOUFIS

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Pascoe Vale FC's Joao Da Silva in full flight against North Melbourne as shoots his way to the leading goal scorers title for the 10-11 season with 49 goals.

Collingwood's C. Holmes and A. Bhadaway are going to have to pull their socks up in the State LEAGUE next season after being relegated.



CF Brunswick's new Futsalroo recruit Danny Ngaluafe flew down from Queensland to take on Hume FC.

FC Prahran's Maxi Avram leads his side to the FOz Cup Premiership safety with 3 crucial goals to defat FC Essendon.



UPDATE: Ashburton FC confirm their 4th spot by defeating top 8 hopefuls Mickleham FC 8 - 5 in a thrilling clash. Ashburton's Mauricio Novak had a stand out performance kicking 4 quality goals and along with a hat-trick from 'the Mercurial One' James Blackburn, it made for quite an entertaining spectacle. It was a crucial game for Mickleham as they needed a win to secure 8th position, as braces from both Josh Berrios and Anthony Colosimo were not enough to prevent the loss to Ashburton. The Mickleham defeat meant that all eyes were to fall on the last clash of the night between FC Prahran and FC Essendon. A nail biting finish was sure to be on the cards.

Hume FC 6-5 CF Brunswick FC

UPDATE: CF Brunswick and Hume FC are two of the most physical and determined teams in the league. This was always going to be a clash that would have all neutral supporters frothing at the mouth in anticipation of the result. After being outplayed early on, CF Brunswick clawed their way back from a 5-2 deficit and got to onto level terms with 3 fantastic goals from regular goal scorer Munya Nyadzayo. Futsalroo & Queenslander Danny Ngaluafe made his debut for CFB and didn't disappoint, slotting a much needed penalty and adding much needed composure to a hardened Brunswick line up. With only seconds remaining, Resit Culculoglu slotted home the winner for Hume after CFB missed chance after chance hitting the post three times. 6-5in the end as CFB finish 10th and will face 3rd placed State League team FC Footscray in the relegation battles while Hume FC finish 5th and will face Ashburton FC in the FOz CUP.

FC Prahran 8-6 FC Essendon

UPDATE: FC Prahran were triumphant against a persistent FC Essendon to ensure premiership FUTSAL next season. The three points for Prahran meant that they pipped Mickleham FC (9th) at the finish line for the last remaining FOz CUP spot (8th). In a replay of the 2009 FOz CUP FC Prahran again overcame the odds and defeated the 2009 League Champions 8 - 6. Maxi Avram led the way for Prahran with a hat-trick, in which two goals could have easily been goal of the week. Avram did not do it alone as he was well supported with braces from both Armstrong and Muktar. There was also another exciting climax to the season to be decided in this last clash of the night, as FC Essendon's Alexander Stevanovic was going for his record breaking 5th straight leading goal scorer title. Surprisingly Alex could only manage 1 goal for the night, taking his season tally to 46 goals, leaving PVFC's Joao Da Silva to take out the award with 49 premiership goals. FC Essendon finin 6th position and will face Nth Melbourne in the Cup, while Prahran face league champions Pascoe Vale.

V-League - Final

2 Metropolitan FC 3 Nth Melbourne FC 22 14 0 8 117 92 25 42 22 13 2 7 132 116 16 41 4 Ashburton FC 5 Hume FC 22 12 3 7 117 96 21 39 6 FC Essendon Fitzroy FC 22 9 2 11 96 123 -27 29 22 8 1 13 104 135 -31 25 8 FC Prahran 9 Mickleham FC 22 7 2 13 123 143 -20 23 10 CF Brunswick 6 2 14 92 134 -42 20 22 6 0 16 86 127 -41 18 11 Brimbank FC 12 FC Collingwood 22 3 1 18 71 148 -77 10

Round 22 Results Wed April 6th

•6:30 Fitzroy FC v FC Collingwood •7:15 Metropolitan FC v Brimbank FC •8:00 Pascoe Vale FC v Nth Melbourne FC •8:45 Mickleham FC v Ashburton FC •9:30 Hume FC v CF Brunswick •10:15 FC Prahran v FC Essendor

2010/11 Futsal Cup Draw **Rd 1 Elimination Wed April 13th**

 •7:15
 (2nd)
 Metropolitan
 FC
 v
 (7th)
 Fitzroy

 •8:00
 (1st)
 Pascoe
 Vale
 FC
 v
 (8th)
 FC
 Pra

 •8:45
 (4th)
 Ashburton
 FC
 v
 (5th)
 Hume

 •9:30
 (3rd)
 Nth
 Melbourne
 FC
 v
 (6th)
 FC
 Esser

V-League Top Scorers

1.Joao Da Silva (PVFC) 2. Alexander Stevanovic (FCE) 3.Alija Redzepovic (MFC) 4.Leonardo Correa (AFC)

Relegation/Promotion Battles 1st Leg April Sunday 17th

•7:45 (SL 2nd) Balwyn v (VL 11th) Brimbank •8:00 (SL 3rd) Footscray v (VL 10th) Brunswick •8:45 (SL 4th) Albert Park v (VL 9th) Mickleham

State League Championship

1 FC Melbourne 2 FC Balwyn 18 10 2 6 120 86 34 32 3 FC Footscray 18 9 1 8 105 83 22 28 4 Albert Park FC 18 9 1 8 107 107 0 28 18 8 0 10 84 82 2 24 5 FC Geelong 6 Doncaster FC 18 8 0 10 107 122 -15 24 FC Carlton 18 7 1 10 100 100 0 22 8 Melb Uni FC 18 7 0 11 73 104 - 31 21 9 Bentleigh FC 18 5 0 13 96 135 -39 15 10 Elsternwick FC * 18 9 1 8 95 102 -7 10*

State League Championship

Season Round 18 Sun Mar 20th •7:40 FC Footscray v Doncaster FC •8:20 FC Melbourne v Albert Park FC •9:00 FC Geelong v Bentleigh FC •9:40 Melbourne Uni FC v FC Balwyn •10:20 FC Carlton v Elsternwick FC

State League Championship **Catch Up Games Sun Mar 27th**

•7:40 FC Balwyn v Doncaster FC •7:40 Doncaster FC v Elsternwick FC

State League Top Scorers

1.Rob Zadwarny FCB 43 goals 41 goals 2.Peter Kratkt EFC 3.Matt Italiano FCB 30 goals

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> > Tel. 1300 788 799





BENTLEIGH GREENS



4

HUME CITY



1

Match Detail

Bentleigh Line-up: 1. (GK, C) Peter GAVALAS, 3. Thomas MATHEWS, 4. Craig SMART, 8. Wayne WALLACE, 9. Sean McILROY, 10. Hayden DOYLE, 12. Adam FADLJEVIC, 14. Aron WILFORD, 16. Ryan DAVIDSON, 17. Jack WEBSTER, 22. Stuart NICHOLSON Subs: 31. (GK) Kile KENNEDY, 7. James McGARRY, 24. Declan KEOGH, 25. Jonathan BOUNAS Goals: McIlroy 25, 45+2' (P), Wilford 66', Nicholson 90+2' Yellow Cards: Mathews 35', Doyle

Hume City Line-up: 18. (GK) Kenny GEROH, 22. Phillip RICCOBENE, 2. Adam NAKIC, 7. Isyan ERDO-GAN, 19. Slave BOZINOVSKI, 17. Mark McGOUGH, 21. Dusko DELIC, 11. Andy VLAHOS, 4. Mark PISTININZI, 15. Zoran PETREVSKI, 10. Richard CARDOZO. Subs: 9. Evan VAN DER BYL, 25.

42', Davidson 45+3'.

Red Cards: none

Atila OFLI, 3. Fabio Di LIZIA, 23. Steven WEIR, 32. Khadir IRFANO-GLU Goals: Cardozo 48'

Goals: Cardozo 48' Yellow Cards: Erdogan 40'& 63', Vlahos 61', Petrevski 63', Pistininzi 77', Weir 87'.

Red Cards: Geroh 45', Erdogan 63'

Bentleigh Batter Sinful City

By Rory Flanagan

The Bentleigh Greens punished an ill-disciplined Hume City outfit with a 4-1 thrashing at Kingston Heath on Friday night. In truth, the margin would have been far greater if the home side had not been so profligate in front of goal.

Two red cards and a pair of goals from Sean McIlroy gave John Anastasiadis his first win in his first game at the Greens helm.

Playing on the left hand side of midfield in place of the injured Scott Bulloch, Craig Smart got the home fans excited early with a thunderous volley fizzing over the crossbar inside five minutes.

The hosts continued their early attacking impetus with Stuart Nicholson manoeuvring into the box and sending a teasing ball across the face of goal with no one on the receiving end.

Under new coach John Anastasiadis, the Greens appeared to have more confidence. A flowing move set up Hayden Doyle who struck a low drive at the bottom corner, turned behind by Kenny Geroh.

From the following corner Bentleigh opened the scoring. Aron Wilford chased down the corner punched away by Geroh before delivering a stunning cross onto the head of Sean McIlroy who executed a textbook header into the far corner.

After setting up a goal, Wilford was keen to get on the scoresheet himself. Doyle picked out the ex-Thunder man with another good corner, but Wilford's header was blocked on the line and cleared to safety.

When Hume were given the opportunity to attack, Slave Bozinovski got a shot on target after a ricochet inside the area which Peter Gavalas held.

Bentleigh were keeping possession better than that of previous weeks and after a dominant spell, Isiyan Erdogan brought it to an abrupt halt with a rash challenge on Craig Smart, a deserved yellow card being issued to the Hume number seven.

Tempers were flaring as Hayden Doyle followed Erdogan into the ref's book for reacting angrily towards Dusko Delic.

On the stroke of half time, Kenny Geroh was sent off for kicking out at Stuart Nicholson with a penalty awarded to Bentleigh. Mark McGough made way for Evan Van Der Byl who took Geroh's place between the posts. The debutante's first challenge was facing



The gloves are off, and so is Kenny Geroh, sent off late in the first half. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

up to a penalty from Sean McIlroy, but there was little he could do as the striker absolutely blasted the ball into the top corner off the underside of the crossbar, extending the lead.

City faced an uphill struggle in the second period, with a two goal deficit and a man down.

The margin was quickly reduced to one goal only three minutes in. Richie Cardozo sprinted at full speed but still managed to control Andy Vlahos' rocket of a pass on his chest. With his second touch he clipped the ball over the advancing Peter Gavalas, the strike grazing the crossbar on its way into the back of the net.

When Ryan Davidson rifled a half volley at goal, Evan Van Der Byl showed he was no pushover. The young goalkeeper pulled off a superb reaction save and still managed to catch the shot.

Dusko Delic was replaced by Steven Weir in the 56th minute as Hume looked to continue their momentum with another striker on the pitch.

The hosts regained their composure and kept possession for a lengthy period, working the ball around to tire the ten men of Hume.

City Player/coach Vlahos earned himself a yellow card after several fervent and frustrated challenges in the space of five minutes.

When focusing in his attacking duties, Vlahos timed his run well to meet an incisive Adam Nakic pass but Gavalas snuffed out the chance in the blink of an eye after dashing off his line and diving at Vlahos' feet.

Hume's battle took another turn for the worse when Isiyan Erdogan received his marching orders for a second yellow card in the 63rd minute. Zoran Petrevski also collected a yellow for protesting.

Bentleigh capitalised on the abundance of space in the Hume half and restored the two goal buffer through Aron Wilford in the 66th minute. Known better for his defensive prowess, the giant centre-back cut in from the left flank, danced around his marker and fired into the bottom corner giving Van Der Byl little chance. Speedy striker Stuart Nicholson drew another strong save from Van der Byl with a low strike from 18 yards following an intelligent cut back from Craig Smart.

Hume City were in damage control and Nicholson again saw an effort denied by Van der Byl, getting down well to his left.

Sensing a chance for a goal difference-boosting win, John Anastasiadis threw on fresh legs in James McGarry and Jonathan Bounas in place of Sean McIlroy and Ryan Davidson. McGarry's first involvement set up Nicholson who missed yet another chance, prodding wide of the far post.

Another reckless challenge resulted



Tom Mathews takes on Andy Vlahos (front) in an aerial duel. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

in Mark Pistininzi being booked, the Hume defender flying in late with studs raised.

Former Northcote striker Nicholson was desperate to get on the scoresheet as he sent a powerful swerving volley over the angle of both post and crossbar.

With all the time and space in the world, Jonathan Bounas tried his luck from distance but couldn't beat the impressive Van der Byl who sensationally tipped his fellow debutant's effort wide.

The home side were queuing up and McGarry should have done better when he collected Thomas Mathews' cross and hit the side netting from 10 yards out.

Adam Fadljevic was next to miss, continuing his side's lacklustre performance in front of goal.

Whenever the Greens did manage

to hit the target, the one man arm of Evan Van der Byl was on hand thwart them as he denied Nicholso for the fourth time.

Steven Weir received the elevent card of the cantankerous clash for petulant foul on 87 minutes.

Incredibly another chance went beging as McGarry steered a divinheader off target, leaving the majori of Greens fans shaking their heads disbelief.

On another night he may have bagge four, five or even six, Stuart Nicholso finally scored in injury time to wrap u the three points and give John Ana tasiadis his first win in charge of the

Bentleigh travel to Dandenong of Saturday night next week whil Hume host South Melbourne on Sur day afternoon.





When Hume City's Richie Cardozo sent this shot into the roof of the net early in the second half it looked like game on, but Bentleigh took over to score an emphatic victory. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Hayden Doyle shows a clean pair of heels to Andy Vlahos Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



OAKLEIGH CANNONS



ST ALBANS SAINTS





Oakleigh Cannons: 23. A.Bran, 13. B.Damianos, 22. J.Downey, 25. C.Goodwin, 18. S.Hatzikostas, 16. F.Lagana, 19. D.Milovanovic, 7. B.Obradovic, 6. R. Tavsancioglu, 12. L. Walker,

Goals: Downey 4', Milovanovic 32', Goodwin 73'.

St.Albans Saints: 20. A.Lonaric, 6. A.Paleka, 19. M.Grgic, 16. T.Uskok, 23. T. Milardovic, 4. M.Cuze, 8. L.Cannell, 18. S.Piorkowski, 14. M.Paleka, 17. D. Visevic, 9. J. Loncaric... Subs: G.Jozeljic, B.Chesson, M.Hana, M.Alibeli, S.Pavolic

Cannons leave Saints still searching for a win

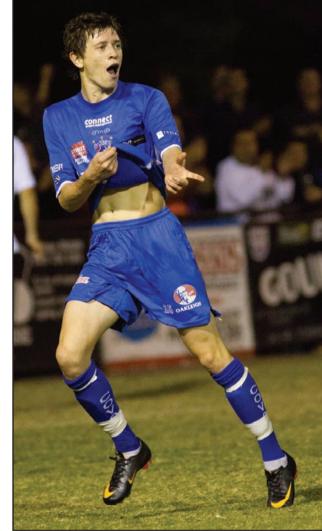
By Jack Henty

In ideal weather conditions at Jack Edwards Reserve on Friday night involved a fiery encounter between the Oakleigh Cannons and the winless St. Albans Saints in their quest to attain their first victory for the 2011 Alanic Victorian Premier League season. Unfortunately for the visitors, they were unable to come away with any points as the home side managed to dominate possession and be victorious 3 - 0 in front of a modest crowd.

The Cannons managed to trouble the scorers early in the piece through James Downey in the fourth minute who managed to manoeuvre the ball through a congested box to get the Cannons off to the start they dreamed of. St. Albans attempted to work themselves into the game by trying to hang onto the ball for as possible but the immense pressure caused by Oakleigh's midfield prevented this tactic from being successful. St. Albans' first scoring opportunity of the game came in the eighteenth minute when Maks Cuze took a strike from beyond the box only to be brilliantly saved by Peter Zois with an acrobatic dive to the top left corner to prevent the ball from going in to the back of the net. This brilliant save from Zois managed to re-spark the Cannons and in the 32nd minute Dane Milovanovic managed to kick truly from penalty to extend the margin to 2 -0 which were the scores heading into the half time break. However, in the 43rd minute Ramazan Tavsancioglu earned himself a yellow card due to an unfair tackle which seemed to ignite some passion out of the St. Albans players as a brief scuffle between players of both teams brought the home crowd fanatics into the game.

The second half mirrored the first half's continuous attacking press from the Cannons as they attempted desperately to put the game beyond doubt and takeaway maximum points. Bonel Obradovic impressed for the home side in the second half as he made countless efforts to take the ball forward and put extreme pressure on the St. Albans' defence. MeanDaniel Visevic who was awed by the crowd as he provided some drive and skilful transitions in a bid to get his side back into the match. Oakleigh were finally able to put the game beyond doubt in the 73rd minute courtesy of some fancy footwork and an impressive run by youngster Craig Goodwin who was able to beat several St. Albans' defenders and reached the bottom left corner. Goodwin's goal brought the scoreboard to read 3 -0 as the scores remained unchanged for the rest of the game. To Oakleigh's credit they continued to press and find avenues to have shots goal, in particular the creative run and energy from substitute Melvin Becket who provided excitement for the crowd right up until the final whistle.

Oakleigh will hope to hold their spot in the top four as they venture to Kevin Bartlett Reserve next week against Richmond meanwhile St. Albans will again try to attain their first win of the season as they will contest against the Melbourne Knights at home.



Craig Goodwin seals the win with some fancy footwork and a nicely taken goal. Photo: ANITA MILAS



James Downey opens the scoring early in the game for Oakleigh Cannons and the Dane Milovanovic makes it 2-0 to the Oakleigh Cannons. Photo: ANITA MILAS signs are ominous for the Saints. Photo: ANITA MILAS





GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS



2

NORTHCOTE CITY



3

Match Detai

Green Gully: 1. Nikola ROGANOVIC, 2. Daniel JONES, 4. Cameron DRAKE, 7. Jeffrey FLEM-ING, 8. Jason HAYNE, 9. Brent FISHER (15. Hamid BASMA), 10. Graham HOCKLESS, 12. Mathew SANDERS, 16. Mile MED-JEDOVIC (11. Pasquale VIZZARI), 17. Andy VAR-GAS, 19. Johnathon MU-NOZ.

Un-Used Subs: 23. Mason INTERLANDI, 6. Michael ANDERSON, 20. Joshua PUGH.

Northcote City: 22. Christopher PETROPOULOS, 3. Kristian KONSTANDINIDIS, 2. Adriano CHIAPETTA, 12, Hayden D'AGOSTINO, 16. Paul SAVIO, 10. Glen TRIFIRO, 25. Jason TRI-FIRO (9. Trent RIXON), 14. Eduardo SOARES, 5. Nick TZOULIS (11. Harry KINIGOPOULOS), 8. Nick CURTIS, 18. James KA-LAFATIDIS (17. Rodrigo COVARUBBIAS). Un-Used Subs: 1. Charlie TREACY.

Blues Down Nine Man Gully

By David Manuca

Northcote City have won their second successive game after a hard fought 3-2 win over Green Gully at Green Gully Reserve on windy and wet Saturday afternoon.

Northcote found themselves up 3-0 early in the second half thanks to goals from Eduardo Soares and brothers Jason and Glen Tifiro. Johnathon Munoz and Jason Hayne netted two late goals for Green Gully but it wasn't enough to get a point for the home side. There were five goals, two red cards and plenty of action for the 200-odd fans there to witness the contest.

Green Gully made no changes to the starting eleven that defeated Dandenong Thunder last week, only bringing in Mason Interlandi and Joshua Pugh for Ryan Ollerton and Michael O'Farrell on the bench.

Northcote City also named the exact same starting eleven from last round's 4-1 win over Heidelberg, but made three changes on the bench replacing Alvaro Carillo, George McHeileh and Alvaro Carillo for the returning Trent Rixon and Harry Kinigopoulos. Even though there were two goals in the first half of the game there weren't many opportunities for either side.

It took until seven minutes into the match until the first shot on goal but Adrian Chiapetta blasted a free kick from a fair distance out high and wide for Northcote. Green Gully had their first opportunity ten minutes in when Andy Vargas received the ball out left from Hayne, cutting inside and taking a shot on goal which was saved by Northcote goalkeeper Christopher Petropoulos.

Green Gully had the next opportunity and should have scored from it when Andy Vargas received a through ball out left, before going around the keeper and crossing the ball into the back post where Cameron Drake volleyed the ball towards goal, but it was blocked on the line by a Northcote defender.

That block proved to be a pivotal point in the match as Northcote found themselves ahead just five

minutes late

Mile Medjedovic fouled Jason Trifiro right on the edge of the area recieving a yellow card in the process. Eduardo Soares stepped up and just like last week curled in a beautiful free kick to put Northcote in the lead.

The crowd couldn't believe what they were seeing as Northcote doubled their advantage only two minutes later.

The man who won the free kick which resulted in the opening goal, Jason Trifiro, found himself with heaps of space in the area and placed a shot past Gull goal-keeper Nikola Roganovic into the bottom right corner to make it two nil.

Three minutes later, in the 36th minute, Green Gully found themselves in further trouble when Cameron Drake was shown a straight red card.

Jeffrey Fleming was becoming frustrated and earnt himself a yellow card two minutes later for a needless challenge, something that would come back and haunt him late on.

Northcote went into the break the better side with a mans' advantage and more importantly a two goal advantage.

They came out of the break looking for a third and Soares found himself with a good chance from a free kick after a foul on Nick Curtis just two minutes in.

Soares curled his shot into the top right corner but Roganovic arrived just in time to keep the ball out.

Nine minutes into the second half and Northcote used their extra advantage to full effect and added a third goal.

Glen Trifiro received the ball on the edge of the area and with his first touch turned and unleashed a curling effort giving Roganovic absolutely no chance.

Green Gully manager, Lubo Lapsansky, was feeling the pressure and had to act deciding to bring on Pasquale Vizzari for Medjedovic to add some extra flair up-front.

Northcote manager, Peter Tsolakis, had the same idea and brought on Trent Rixon a few minutes later in place of goal-



AVPL soccer action from Saturday's clash between Green Gully and Northcote City. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

scorer Jason Trifiro.

A minute later Green Gully pulled a goal back thanks to Johnathon Munoz. A free kick from 40 yards out went through everyone and Munoz had the easy task of tapping the ball home from close range.

But a minute after that Jeffrey Fleming received his second yellow card of the match forcing Green Gully to play with ninemen for the rest of the match. Trent Rixon nearly scored with his first strike on goal after coming on but after controlling a ball in out from the right he sprayed his shot wide of the goal.

Remarkably, even with nine men, Green Gully scored a second to bring them back to just one goal with ten minutes remaining. Jason Hayne was released one

on one with Petropoulos and made no mistake slotting the ball into the back of the net.

Northcote couldn't believe that

they had let a three goal advantage slip even with more players on the pitch.

They tried to score a fourth to finally put the game to rest but shots from Kalafatidis and Rixon went wide of the goal.

In the 89th minute Graham Hockless found himself with space on

the edge of the area and let rip a strike that was brilliantly saved by Petropoulos to keep his side in-front.

The referee added three minutes on to the end of the match but Northcote held on well to earn a valuable three points and conflict Green Gully to their fifth loss of the season.

Green Gully will take on Heidelberg United in Round 9 of the AVPL season whilst Northcote City host Springvale White Eagles at the same time on the same



Northcote City races out to a 3-0 lead with the third goal coming from Glen Trifiro, seen here celebrating with team-mates. PHOTO: PETER PSARROS



Glen Trifiro on the ball for Noethcote City. PHOTO: PETER PSARROS



Jeff Fleming sees red. PHOTO: PETER PSARROS

HEIDELBERG UNITED



2

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS



1

Match Detail

Heidelberg United line up: 1. Griffin Mc MASTER, 22. Ben WEARING, 14. Craig ELVIN, 16. Steve MARTIN, 3. Les DOUM-BALIS, 7. Hamlet ARMENIAN, 21. Richard GREER, 11. Evan CHRISTODOULOU, 23. Takanori NISHIMOTO (10. Jason SAMARGIS 89'), 20. Saso ALEKSOVSKI (8. Andrew NABOUTT 79'), 18. Osagie EDARADO.

SUBS NOT USED: 32. Jason KOUTSOD-ONTIS, 5. George PAPADOPOLOUS, 13. Matthew TANSEVSKI.

GOALS: Christodoulou 26', Aleksovski 60'

CAUTIONS: Samargis

Melbourne Knights line up: 1. Martin JOHN, 3. Ryan FILIPOVIC, 4. Ben SUREY, 5. Leo SHIN, 6. Meyer Carlos DE CAMARGO JUNIOR (21. Aaron ROMEIN 81'), 8. Josip MAGDIC, 10. Josip KOZIC (22. Craig SWEENEY 67'), 11. Anthony COLOSIMO, 14. Jean Charles DUBOIS, 15. Yusuf Yusuf (23. Matheiu WELMANT 67'), 18. Daniel DRAGICEVIC.

SUBS NOT USED: 2. Shaun ROMEIN, 19. Adam Zilic.

GOAL: Sweeney 87

CAUTIONS: De Camargo Junior, Filipovio

Player of the Match: Richard Greer (Heidelberg United)

Crowd: 1250 at the Olympic Village, Heidelberg

Bergers Prevail After A Hard

Knights' Work

By John Fotinos

Heidelberg United shrugged off a determined Melbourne Knights outfit to claim a hard-fought 2-1 victory at the Olympic Village on Sunday evening.

Goals in either half to Evan Christodoulou & Saso Aleksovksi gave the home side a 2-0 advantage on the hour mark, before a late Knights' goal from substitute Craig Sweeney rounded out the scoring. The result eases the pressure slightly for Heidelberg, which moves up to eighth spot on the table, and leaves the Knights slightly precariously placed in tenth position.

The visiting Melbourne Knights were able to field a relatively full squad, in contrast to their hosts, who were missing several starters, most noticeably midfielder Adrian Caceres who is trialling in Indonesia, as well as the suspended Yared Hailemelkot and Johnny Lazaridis.

The first period of play was marked by a fairly cautious approach by both teams, perhaps indicative of the tension in the respective camps due to the awareness of how vital getting all three points would prove to be. For Heidelberg, Aleksovski hit a well-timed volley that was charged down, and for the Knights, Magdic had two efforts on goal in the first twenty minutes of play.

The opening goal came from

a set piece, with Aleksovski floating in a relatively innocuous ball into the penalty area. The Knights' defence briefly hesitated, allowing an unmarked Christodoulou to glance home past Martin John to give Heidelberg a 1-0 lead after 26 minutes.

The rest of the first half was evenly balanced as both sides tried to stretch each other's defences without great success. However, just moments before the main break, the Knights' failure to deal with a set-piece saw Osagie Ederaro of Heidelberg rattle the cross bar with a header, with the ball scrambled away by the Knights.

With a 1-0 lead at half-time, Heidelberg sought to up the tempo early in the second half, and were duly rewarded in the 60th minute, when Ederaro played a ball through to Aleksovki, whose angled volley across Martin John found the back of the net to extend the home side's lead to 2-0.

The Knights were unfortunate not to peg a goal back minutes later, when Josip Magdic smashed a powerful shot into the cross bar, as the visitors threw more players forward in search of an opening. As the gaps began to open up in the Knights' defence, Heidelberg might have settled the result, but first Christodoulou had a cheeky chip shot well held by John & then Ederaro curled an effort over with the goal at his mercy.



Melbourne Knights' Jean Charles Dubois tries to hustle his way past Heidelberg's Craig Elvin. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

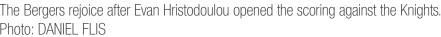
Knights substitutes Mathieu Welmant & Craig Sweeney combined to give the visitors a glimmer of hope of salvaging something from the match in the 87th minute. Welmant beat Ben Wearing on the left & his cross ultimately found Sweeney at the edge of the box, giving him time enough

to pick his spot and slam home the ball to reduce the deficit. However, Heidelberg United was content to play out time to record a valuable 2-1 win & claim the valuable three points.

In next week's Round 9 action of the Alanic VPL, Heidelberg United travel to Green Gully on Saturday afternoon and the Melbourne Knights travel to bottom-placed St. Albans on Sunday to take part in the Croatian derby.

In the Under-21's match today, the Melbourne Knights ran out 1-0 winners over Heidelberg United.







Action between Melbourne Knights and Heidelberg United in the late VPL game last night. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

SOUTH MELBOURNE



RICHMOND EAGLES





Match Details

FINAL SCORE: SOUTH MELBOURNE 1-0 RICHMOND EAGLES (HT: 0-0) Goal Scorer: 1-0: Carl Recchia (72')

South Melbourne FC
3. Rhodri PAYNE, 4. Steven O'DOR (33. Bobby RUSSELL 46'), 5. Daniel VASILEVSKI, 6. Steven TOPALOVIC, 8. Carl RECCHIA, 11. Jesse KRNCEVIC, 13. Ljubo MILICEVIC, 15. Fernando DE MORAES (16. Trent WATERSON 88'), 18. Marinos GASPARIS, 21. Zaim ZENELI, 25. Kyle JORYEFF (14. Kamal IBRAHIM 65')

Richmond Eagles
1. Stjepan GAL, 3. Erhan KARAHAN, 4. Ross
ANTONIADIS, 5. Mitchell
BISSINGER, 6. Dimitri
TSIARAS, 7. Timmy PUR-CELL (11. Mate ETEROVIC
75'), 9. Michael CATALANO,
10. Chris O'HARE (19. Evan
BATSIS 75'), 13. Antun KO-VACIC, 16. Stuart WILSON
(2. Andrew VIOLA 85'), 18.
Michael FERRANTE

Man of the Match: Carl Recchia (South Melbourne) Venue: John Cain Memorial Park Date: Sunday 10 April 2011

300111 MILLDOUINL

Recchia Header Knocks Down Eagles

By John Kyrou

SOUTH MELBOURNE FC has maintained its position at the top of the Victorian Premier League ladder following a 1-0 victory over the Richmond Eagles at John Cain Memorial Park on Sunday afternoon. A Carl Recchia header after 72 minutes was enough for South to win the three points and end the round in first position for the second consecutive week.

South was strengthened for the match as it welcomed back captain and centre-half Steven O'Dor, right-back Steven Topalovic and forward Jesse Krncevic for the visit of the Eagles, with all three players missing the previous week's 0-2 win at St Albans. Richmond's starting eleven from last Sunday's 3-1 victory over Bentleigh remained unchanged except for Jason Hoffman being replaced by Chris O'Hare.

South dominated the first half but could not put away its chances. Kyle Joryeff had two magnificent opportunities to open the scoring, firstly when he headed a Daniel Vasilevski corner over the bar and secondly when he put the ball wide of Stjepan Gal's goal after being put through one-onone by Krncevic. Daniel Vasilevski also had an opportunity to score when he hit a stinging shot just over Gal's crossbar. Despite the opportunities created, South was still level at the halftime break. On a sour note, O'Dor was substituted during the halftime break and replaced by Bobby Russell after the captain picked up an injury just before the end of the first half.

In the second half, Richmond was very lucky not to go down to 10 men when Erhan Karahan went flying into Steven



Richmond's Ross Antoniadis has to go sideways as well as up to win the header against South's Kyle Joryeff (left). Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Topalovic from behind with his studs raised. Despite the mass protests from the home supporters for a red card, Karahan was extremely fortunate to continue playing as he was only cautioned for the tackle. South's frustrations grew even further when Krncevic was put through one-on-one but was penalised for being offside

when he appeared to be onside. Minutes later, Joryeff committed a rather crude late tackle and was perhaps lucky to have only been given a caution. The coaching staff reacted to diffuse the situation by replacing him with Kamal Ibrahim.

Despite the growing frustration, South continued to put pressure on Richmond and eventually got the goal they had been after, when Recchia rose at the near post to head Ibrahim's cross into the back of the net. It was not the prettiest of goals and it was not the best of matches to watch, however Recchia's goal meant that South achieved what it had set out to do and that was win a fourth successive match, keep

a second consecutive clean sheet and remain on top of the Victorian Premier League.

South's next match is away to Hume City, with kick-off scheduled for 15:00 at Broadmeadows Valley Park next Sunday afternoon. At the same time, Richmond hosts the Oakleigh Cannons at Kevin Bartlett Reserve.







Richmond's Erhan Karahan's strong challenge forces Kyle Joryeff to take evasice action. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

SPRINGVALE W EAGLES



DANDENONG THUINDER



Match Details

SWE lineup: Scott AUGUSTIN, Adam EWIN, Boris BAJIC, Gordan MRDIC (Gojko PONJEVIC 83'), Milos LUJIC, Rados TOMIC (Lewis KARANICOLAS 62'), Dushan NIKOLIC, Dominic D'ANGELO, Zoran VUKAS, Nikola VELJOVIC, Goran ZORIC (Paul MAGHIAR 83').

Unused subs: Christian MO-RALES, Andres JEREZ Yellow Cards: Mrdic 18', Bajic

Dandenong Lineup: Stuart WEBSTER, Ben HARRISON, Jack HINGERT, Archie TOMIC, Mathew THEODORE, Steven GRAY, Veton KORCARI (Nathan KNOX 73'), Luke SHER-BON (Alex ROJAS 87'), Chris TAYLOR, Stephen COOKE (Liam KEARNEY 63'), Shane REXHEPI.

Unused subs: Sermin SADIK-OVSKI, Jarryd BARNES Yellow Cards: Rexhepi 66' Goals: Sherbon 75, 81' (P), Theodore 76'.

Quickfire Double does the damage for Dandy

By Rory Flanagan

Bouncing back from a three nil loss at the hands of Green Gully, Dandenong Thunder produced a dominant second half display to take home all three points at Springvale White Eagles on Sun-

Two goals in two second half minutes set up the derby win for the

Both sides began the contest full of enthusiasm in front of vocal contingents of supporters.

Dandenong's fluent moving, strong passing game was hindered by the long grass of White Eagles Stadium and adopted a more direct route

Springvale looked to use the speed of Goran Zoric and Zoran Vukas to manufacture opportunities.

The away side made the better start but couldn't find any passage through a congested Springvale defence. Mathew Theodore and Archie Tomic both with efforts at goal blocked by a committed backline.

Rados Tomic was being made to work hard on the right flank to cover attacking left back Ben Harrison who repeatedly bombed forward to

Gordan Mrdic was issued with the first vellow card of the match on 18 minutes after being beaten to the ball by fellow number eight Mathew Theodore

Zoran Vukas did well to fire a shot on target after cutting inside from the left wing. However, Webster was in position to pluck the ball comfortably out of the air.

The two rival teams opted to run the ball out of defence and space opened up for Shane Rexhepi as the first half drew to a close. The central defender struck a long range pile driver narrowly over the bar.

Another heated battle occurred off the pitch, with both sets of fans endeavouring to drown each other

Adam Ewin courageously denied Veton Korcarevski in stoppage time and collected a knock to the head for his efforts.

The interval served as an opportunity for both coaches to marshal their troops and energise them for

the cracking second stanza that fol-

Mistakes are a rarity when Steven Grav is on the ball and he surprised many with an under hit back pass that forced Webster into action to deny Milos Lujic in the opening minute after the restart.

Surging runs from midfield combined with slick passing have been the main feature behind Dandenong's attack prowess this season and Archie Tomic set up Luke Sherbon in the 51st minute. After a smart turn on the halfway line, the Dandy midfielder accelerated and ran at the White Eagles back four before slipping a perfectly weighted pass to Luke Sherbon who thundered an effort at goal from the edge of the area, tipped behind by Scott Augustin. The resulting corner saw Veton Korcarevski's powerful drive from ten yards denied again by Augustin.

UK import Stephen Cooke should have done better with his free header ten minutes into the second half from a wonderful Jack Hingert

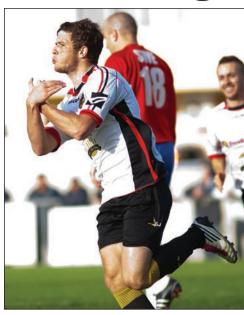
Repeatedly being afforded space and time in midfield, Dandenong were able to get around the home defence and deliver crosses frequently. Luke Sherbon cut the ball back from the by line to Theodore who struck a half volley against the crossbar as the travelling fans eagerly anticipated a breakthrough.

Shane Rexhepi made an effort to clear a ball midair and could do little to avoid contact with Vukas in possession and gave away a free kick. Surprisingly the referee produced a yellow card to the Thunder vice-captain

Shortly after, Milos Lujic found himself inside the box with the ball from a quick free kick but fired straight into the grateful hands of

The visitors eventually did have put the ball in the back of the net after Veton Korcarevski knocked home the rebound from Chris Taylor's long range effort that smacked against the bar. Celebrations were brought to an abrupt halt when the assistant referee raised his flag for







Thunder's Matt Theodore celebrates his goal (left) as does Luke Sherbon his brace (right). And ther the Thunder are all in the chorus after the match. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Dandy finally did break the deadlock and did so in a lethal 90 second period. Luke Sherbon hammered home the rebound from a 75th minute corner and before anyone could blink an eye, Chris Taylor sent Theodore through on goal and he calmly slotted past Augustin for a second goal.

Five minutes later, the game was done and dusted when Veton Korcarevski won a penalty. Luke Sherbon kept his composure and sent Augustin the wrong way to bag his second goal of the afternoon.

With the result was beyond doubt, White Eagles fans departed early to jeers from their Dandenong counterparts.

Looking to pile on more misery to the demoralised Eagles, Taylor curled a delightful effort that drew an equally brilliant save from Augustin in the 88th minute.

The score-line remained at 3-0 and enormous cheers rang out as the final whistle blew.

Dandenong Coach Stuart Munro said that the key factor behind the win was his side's patience.

"We spoke at half time about maintaining patience."

"Keeping our shape and moving around in midfield more opened

When asked about Thunder's brilliant start to the season, he commented "We play to a certain structure that suits the players

things up for us." He added

we've got and the players' hard work and natural abilities getting us there at the moment. They're all hungry and they're all doing well. They've all shown a very good at-

Dandenong take on a Bentleigh Greens side featuring several ex-Thunder players next week on Saturday night with Springvale away to Northcote on Saturday.

St Albans Saints

Alanic VPL Standings

W PT South Melbourne 6 20 Dandenong Thunder 17 7 6 19 19 Oakleigh Cannons 11 19 **Hume City** 13 11 15 4 Northcote City Bentleigh Greens 9 14 14 4 4 5 11 Richmond Eagles 9 3 1 10 18 3 Heidelberg Utd 8 3 2 11 11 9 VTC Football 3 0 10 9 7 4 13 2 Melbourne Knights 2 13 9 5 14 8 Green Gully Cavaliers 8 2 12 1 5 7 11 Springvale White Eagles 23 9 4

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0

Alanic VPL Round 9

Wed 13 Apr 8:30PM N.T.C v Dandenong Thunder

Fri 15 Apr 8:30PM

Richmond Eagles v Oakleigh Cannons Kevin Bartlett Reserve

Sat 16 Apr 3:00PM Northcote City v Springvale White

Eagles John Cain Memorial

Sat 16 Apr 3:00PM Green Gully Cavaliers v Heidelberg Hume City v South Melbourne Utd Green Gully Reserve

Sat 16 Apr 7:00PM Dandenong Thunder v Bentleigh

Greens George Andrews Reserve

Sun 17 Apr 3:00PM St Albans Saints v Melbourne

Knights Churchill Reserve

Sun 17 Apr 3:00PM Broadmeadows Valley Park

Under 21s

	Р	w	0) L	FΑ	GD	Pt	
Hume City	9	5	2	2	26	13	17	
Oakleigh Cannons	9	5	2	2	26	16	17	
Green Gully Cavaliers	8	5	2	1	19	11	17	
Melbourne Knights	8	4	2	2	20	8	14	
South Melbourne	7	4	2	1	19	13	14	
Heidelberg Utd	6	4	1	1	14	9	13	
Springvale White Eagles	9	4	0	5	21	26	12	
Dandenong Thunder	8	3	1	4	19	16	10	
Northcote City	8	3	1	4	10	17	10	
Bentleigh Greens	9	2	1	6	15	29	7	
VTC Football	7	2	0	5	12	23	6	
Richmond	8	2	0	6	13	25	6	
St Albans Saints	8	1	2	5	16	24	2	

Bentleigh Greens 2

Oakleigh Cannons 2

Green Gully Cavaliers 3 Northcote City 0

Richmond 1

Springvale White Eagles 1

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Monday 11th April 2011

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